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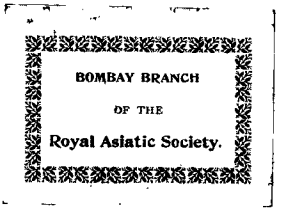

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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL,

1915-1916.

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PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

SUMMARY.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	Page.	Para.
CHAPTER I.—POLITICAL AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.		
Head-quarters of Government	i	1
Tours of His Excellency the Governor	i	2
Changes in the Administration—		
Bengal Secretariat	ii	3
Judicial	ii	4
Police	ii	5
Creation of the Kalimpong Subdivision	ii	6
Partition of the district of Mymensingh	iii	7
Partition of the district of Midnapore	iii	8
Tributary States—		
Cooch Behar. Change in the designation of the Superintendent, Cooch Behar State	iii	9
Condition of the People—		
Agricultural classes	iii	10
Wages and salaries	iii	11
CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.		
Realisation of the Revenue—		
Revenue and cesses	iii	12
Surveys—		
Arrangements for the control of Survey operations	iv	13
Arrangements for Survey work	iv	14
Re-organisation of certain sections of the Survey Department	iv	15
Magnetic Declination	iv	16
Land Records and Settlement—		
Maintenance of Land Records	iv	17
Waste lands—		
Colonization of the Sundarbans in the Bakarganj district	iv	18
Reclamation of the Sundarbans in the 24-Parganas	iv	19
Wards' and Attached Estates—		
Number of Estates and General remarks	v	20
Training of minor wards in Survey and Settlement work	v	21
Revenue and Rent-paying classes—		
Working of the Bengal Tenancy Act	v	22
CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.		
Legislation—		
Acts passed	v	23
Police—		
Rewards	vi	24
Motor car rules	vi	25
Administration	vi	26
River Police districts	vi	27
Military Police	vi	28
Crime	vi	29
Political Crime	vi	30
Criminal Justice—		
Work of the year	vii	31
Jails—		
Overcrowding	vii	32
Health	vii	33
Escapes	vii	34
Juvenile Jail	vii	35
Civil Justice—		
Work of the year	viii	36
Registration—		
Appointment of additional District Magistrates as *ex-officio* District Registrars	viii	37
Municipal Administration and Local Self-Government—		
Reconstitution of Municipalities on an elective basis	viii	38
Relaxation of control over Municipal budget	viii	39
Town-planning Exhibition by Professor Geddes	viii	40
Calcutta Improvement Trust	ix	41
Utilization of Public Works cess	ix	42
Provident Fund rules	ix	43
Union Committees	ix	44
Marine—		
Port of Calcutta	ix	45
Calcutta Port Trust	ix	46
Chittagong Port Trust	x	47
Boiler Commission	x	48
Smoke-nuisances Commission	x	49
War section	xi	50
CHAPTER IV—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.		
Agriculture—		
Co-ordination of the work of the Agricultural and Co-operative Departments	xi	51
Distress in Bankura, Tippera and Noakhali Districts	xi	52
Water hyacinth	xii	53
Establishment of seed stores	xii	54
Weather and Crops—		
Weather and crops	xii	55
Co-operative Societies—		
Audit of the accounts of Central Co-operative Banks	xii	56
Forests—		
Artificial regeneration of sál	xiii	57
Manufactures and Mines—		
Development of Industries	xiii	58
Miscellaneous	xiii	59
Trade—		
Foreign Trade	xiii	60
Imports	xiii	61
Exports	xiii	62
Trans-frontier Trade	xiv	63
Coasting Trade	xiv	64
Rail and River-borne Trade	xiv	65
The Indian Explosives Act (IV of 1884)	xiv	66
Trading by Hostile Foreigners	xiv	67

	Page	Para.
Public Works Department—Establishment—		
Appointment of temporary Upper Subordinates	xv	68
Formation of a Water-ways Subdivision	xv	69
Encouragement of the study of Oriental languages	xv	70
Selection of officers for higher appointments	xv	71
Strength of the Department	xv	72
Buildings—		
Imperial	xv	73
Provincial	xvi	74
Communications—		
Communications	xvi	75
Miscellaneous Public Improvements—		
Miscellaneous Public Improvements	xvii	76
Railways—		
Administration	xvii	77
Mileage	xvii	78
Surveys	xvii	79
Lines opened during the year	xvii	80
Important lines under construction	xvii	81
Lines sanctioned for construction	xvii	82
Canals—		
Major works	xviii	83
Minor works	xviii	84
Embankment and Drainage Works—		
Expenditure	xviii	85
CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.		
Imperial Finance—		
Imperial Finance	xviii	86
Excise—		
Enhancement of duty on Ganja	xix	87
Raising of the issue prices of excise opium	xix	88
Powers and position of the Deputy Commissioners of Excise and Salt, Bengal, and their relation to the Collectors	xix	89
Income-tax—		
Investment of Subdivisional Officers with the powers of Income-tax Deputy Collectors.	xix	90
Provincial Finance—		
Provincial Finance	xix	91
Local Finance—		
Local Finance	xix	92
CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.		
Medical Service—		
Rules under the Bengal Medical Act, 1914	xx	93
Extension of sections 29, 30 and 31 of the Bengal Medical Act, 1914	xx	94
Indian Medical Degrees Act, 1916	xx	95
Establishment of a School of Tropical Medicine in Calcutta	xx	96
Belgachia Medical College	xxi	97
Rules under the Indian Lunacy Act	xxi	98
Training of Indian Nurses	xxi	99
Motor ambulance service in Calcutta	xxi	100
Emigration—		
Recruitment of emigrants for Assam	xxi	101
Abolition of the thana parade of Nepalese Military recruits at Darjeeling	xxii	102
Sanitation—		
Sanitation Committees	xxii	103
Duties of Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors	xxii	104
Extension of the Bengal (Sanitary Officers' Act) Act II of 1914	xxii	105
Curtailments of sanitary works and of expenditure from the Sanitary grant	xxii	106
CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.		
Education—		
Colleges—		
(a) Appointment of a Bursar and Dean for the Presidency College, Calcutta	xxiii	107
(b) David Hare Training College	xxiii	108
Muhammadan Education—		
(a) Maintenance of Government Madrasas and the utilization of the Mohsin Fund	xxiii	109
(b) Establishment of a hostel for Muhammadan students in Calcutta	xxiii	110
Technical Education—		
(a) Manual Training	xxiii	111
(b) Mining Education	xxiii	112
(c) Weaving Institute	xxiii	113
Commercial Education	xxiii	114
Backward classes—		
(a) Education of the children of tea garden coolies	xxiii	115
(b) Development of Santhal education	xxiii	116
(c) Education of factory children	xxiv	117
Grants to the Calcutta University for hostels	xxiv	118
Reformatory and Industrial Schools	xxiv	119
Dacca Museum—		
Dacca Museum	xxiv	120
Indian Museum—		
Abolition of the Art Gallery Committee of the Indian Museum	xxiv	121
Literature and the Press—		
Press	xxiv	122
Bengal Library	xxv	123
CHAPTER IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.		
Veterinary—		
Report on Survey and Census of the Cattle of Bengal	xxv	124
Miscellaneous—		
Extension of certain Acts to the Chittagong Hill Tracts	xxv	125
Re-settlement of *Jhum* tax in the Chittagong Hill Tracts	xxvi	126
Supply of official publications to the Members of the Bengal Legislative Council	xxvi	127
The War—		
The War	xxvi	128

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1915-16.

PART I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

CHAPTER I.

POLITICAL AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

HEAD-QUARTERS OF GOVERNMENT AND TOURS OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF BENGAL, DURING THE YEAR 1915-16.

Head-quarters of Government.

DURING the year 1915-16, Darjeeling was the head-quarters of Government from 27th April to 1st July, and again from 10th October to 6th November. Dacca was the head-quarters of Government from 17th July to 22nd August and Calcutta for the rest of the year.

Tours.

2. In April 1915 on his way to the summer head-quarters His Excellency visited Kalimpong, where he remained for a fortnight. He left Kalimpong on the 26th April and arrived at Darjeeling the following day. In May and June His Excellency paid a short visit to Calcutta, where he halted for a day in May and for two days in June.

On 1st July His Excellency left Darjeeling for the monsoon tour. He arrived at Calcutta on the 2nd July and after a halt of three days left Calcutta on the 6th and proceeded direct to Chittagong, visiting the relief works at Laksam on the way. From Chittagong His Excellency went to Rangamati on the 11th and returned to Chittagong on the 14th. On the way he visited the Chandraghona Hospital. His Excellency left Chittagong on the 16th July and arrived at Dacca on the afternoon of the 17th.

On 5th and 6th August His Excellency visited Sabhar, Sekharnagar and Hashara in the Dacca district, and opened a dispensary at each place. His Excellency also paid a short visit to Calcutta in August. On the 22nd August His Excellency left Dacca and proceeded on a river tour. He visited Tangail on the 24th, where he opened a Muhammadan hostel. On the following evening His Excellency arrived at Surdah and visited the Police Training College. His Excellency visited Jangipur and Azimgunge on the 26th and arrived at Murshidabad the same evening. On the 28th August His Excellency proceeded to Berhampore which he left on the 30th. He visited Plassey on the same morning and Navadwip in the afternoon and arrived at Krishnagar at 8 P.M. On the 1st September His Excellency left Krishnagar

and arrived at Chinsurah at 11 A.M. Here he inspected the ambulance cars presented by the people of the Hooghly district in connection with the war. He returned to Calcutta the same day. On the 23rd September His Excellency left Calcutta for Darjeeling and returned to Calcutta on the 30th of the same month.

On the 9th October His Excellency proceeded to Darjeeling. He left Darjeeling on the 6th November, and before he returned to Calcutta he visited Kalimpong and spent five days from 10th to 15th November in visiting several places in the Duars. He visited the Surdah Police Training College on the 16th and arrived at Calcutta on the evening of the 17th.

In January 1916 His Excellency left Calcutta on the 17th, and travelling by river, visited the Salvation Army Settlement at Goshaba, and inspected the colonization schemes at Khepoopara and Lotachapli, Bhola, Sandwip, Cox's Bazar and Teknaf. He reached Dacca on the afternoon of the 26th and returned to Calcutta on the 31st January.

On the 1st February His Excellency left Calcutta where he was and was present at the laying by the Viceroy of the foundation-stone of the Hindu University at Benares. His Excellency also visited Lucknow, returning to Calcutta on the 9th February. Between 14th and 19th February His Excellency paid a visit to the Viceroy at Delhi.

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

Bengal Secretariat.

3. In order to deal with the increased work on account of the war and the political situation in the Presidency, a temporary post of Additional Secretary to Government in the Political Department was created in December 1915 for a period of six months. Sanction has since been obtained to the continuance of the appointment till the end of the war.

A temporary post of Additional Under-Secretary to Government in the Political Department has also been created for a period not exceeding two years.

Sanction was received in the course of the year to the permanent retention of the fourth Secretaryship and Under-Secretaryship to Government, which were originally created on a temporary basis in 1913.

Judicial.

4. Four new posts of District and Sessions Judges were created to provide for Additional Judgeships in the following districts, *viz.*, Jessore and Khulna (jointly), Burdwan and Midnapore (jointly), Mymensingh and Faridpur, in order to meet the needs of the judicial administration of those districts.

Police.

5. A new police range comprising the six districts in the Burdwan Division, was constituted with effect from the 1st September 1915, with a Deputy Inspector-General in charge.

Creation of the Kalimpong Subdivision.

6. A new Subdivision was created in the district of Darjeeling with effect from the 1st March 1916 consisting of police-stations Kalimpong and Gorubathan within Darjeeling thana. The head-quarters of the Subdivision are located at Kalimpong.

Partition of the district of Mymensingh.

7. The details of the scheme for the formation of the following three districts out of the existing unwieldy district of Mymensingh, were published for criticism in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 2nd June 1915 :—

(1) A South-Eastern or Kishorganj district, with head-quarters at Kishorganj ;

(2) A Western or Gopalpur district ; and

(3) A Central and North-Eastern District, with head-quarters at Mymensingh.

The opinions expressed by persons interested in the question were carefully considered, and a definite decision in regard to the scheme to be adopted was come to, with the exception of a few details and one important point, *viz.*, the selection of a head-quarters for the proposed Western District. The opinions received on this matter were so divergent, that Government appointed a committee of local officers to go over the ground and to examine the merits of alternative proposals.

Partition of the district of Midnapore.

8. A definite scheme for dividing the existing district of Midnapore into the following two districts was published for general information in January 1915 :—

(1) the district of Midnapore with head-quarters at Midnapore, and

(2) the district of Hijli with head-quarters at Kharagpur.

It was not possible to give effect to the scheme during the year, but steps were taken to prepare estimates for the buildings and establishment required in the new district.

TRIBUTARY STATES—COOCH BEHAR.

Change in the designation of the Superintendent, Cooch Behar State.

9. At the instance of His Highness the Maharaja of Cooch Behar and with the approval of the Government of India, the designation of the Superintendent, Cooch Behar State, was changed to Vice-President of the State Council.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Agricultural classes.

10. With the rise in the price of jute there was some improvement in the condition of the cultivating classes except in certain parts of the province, where distress prevailed on account of drought or floods, notably in the districts of Bankura and Tippera.

Wages and salaries.

11. The high prices of food were felt by the middle classes with fixed incomes and in a less degree by the labouring classes, whose wages tend to rise in proportion to the rise in prices.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

REALIZATION OF THE REVENUE.

Revenue and cesses.

12. There was an increase of Rs. 2,34,632 in the land-revenue demand and of Rs. 2,13,488 in that of the road and public works cesses.

The collections under both heads showed better results than in the previous year, having risen from .97·75 and 96·9 to 100·97 and 100·6, respectively, during the year under report.

SURVEYS.

Arrangements for the control of survey operations.

13. The arrangement for the joint control of surveys in Bengal and Assam was found unsuitable to the circumstances of Assam, and it soon became apparent that the Assam surveys could not be conveniently and efficiently controlled by a Director of Surveys stationed in Calcutta. In the beginning of December 1915 the Assam surveys were therefore separated from Bengal and were entrusted to the Survey of India as an experimental measure.

Arrangements for survey work.

14. A Miscellaneous Traverse and Survey Section had been created in the year 1913-14 experimentally for two years. Since then the special Calcutta survey party has been abolished and the work transferred to this section, the continuance of which has been sanctioned for a further period of five years.

Reorganisation of certain sections of the Survey Department.

15. The separation of the Assam surveys rendered it possible to change the organisation of the Director of Surveys' Office by including in it the whole of the accounts and correspondence work of the Bengal Traverse Party, the Drawing Office and the Bengal Miscellaneous Traverse and Survey Party. This arrangement, which has been sanctioned experimentally for two years, is expected to increase efficiency and decrease expenditure. The immediate saving is not considerable, but further economies attended with better conduct of work are expected as the scheme gets into working order.

Magnetic declination.

16. A great deal of misunderstanding existed in the Courts and Collectorates of Bengal and amongst private people as to the use of maps based upon surveys which rely upon observations taken with magnetic compasses. The Director of Surveys, Bengal, prepared a table, with a short explanatory note, showing the annual change in magnetic declination in mid-Bengal, year by year, for the period 1820 to 1920. These were circulated to all Revenue and Judicial Officers and Bar Libraries and will, it is hoped, have the effect of eliminating much erroneous work which would otherwise have resulted.

LAND RECORDS AND SETTLEMENT.

Maintenance of Land Records.

17. It has been decided not to introduce the system of continuous maintenance of Land Records in Bengal.

WASTE LANDS.

Colonization of the Sundarbans in the Bakarganj district.

18. Sanction was accorded to the continuance of the appointment of the Colonization Officer for the Sundarbans in the Bakarganj district and his staff for a further period of five years from the 1st April 1915.

Reclamation of the Sundarbans in the 24-Parganas.

19. In view of the probability of damage to the drainage of the country from premature reclamation, the framing of revised rules for leasing to capitalists waste lands in the Sundarbans in the districts of the 24-Parganas and Khulna and in Saugor Island with necessary provisions for controlling sub-infeudation, has been pending with this

Government. It has now been decided to collect information as to what areas are above the mean high water of spring and neap tides, and which of them being outside the main drainage area could be reclaimed without damage to the main drainage channels.

WARDS AND ATTACHED ESTATES.

Number of estates and general remarks.

20. There were 57 estates under the management of the Court of Wards during the year, including 4 estates newly taken charge of. The percentage of collections on current demand improved, rising from 84·7 to 94·6. The cost of management for the whole Province was 12·6 per cent. of the current rent and cess demand against 12·4 per cent. in the preceding year, the standard of 10 per cent. being exceeded in all the Divisions except the Presidency Division.

Training of minor wards in Survey and Settlement work.

21. In accordance with the arrangement to give minors under the Court of Wards some training in Survey and Settlement work, one ward and the son of another ward attended the camp held during the field season of 1915-16 with good results

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES

Working of Bengal Tenancy Act.

22. Illegal cesses or *abwabs* are levied in some form or other throughout the Presidency. In Rajshahi district, where settlement operations have not long been in progress, it is reported that the tenants are in a state of subservience, and the big landlords have no difficulty in realizing their rents with 25 per cent. extra in *abwabs*. Rents are periodically enhanced in complete disregard of the Tenancy Act. This account is in striking contrast with the report from Noakhali district, where settlement proceedings have also recently been begun, that *abwabs* and enhancements of rent are rarely taken and the raiyats are prosperous and law-abiding. Road and Public Works cess at more than the legal rate continues to be exacted in the districts of Faridpur and Bakarganj. Tenants as a rule submit to these exactions, and no suits were instituted under section 75 of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

There was a total increase in the number of voluntary transfers which is attributed to failure of crops, the low price of jute and financial difficulties in certain districts.

The total number of rent money-orders, and the amount covered by them, increased while the percentage of the number refused fell from 18·5 in the previous year to 16·9 during the year under report.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

LEGISLATION.

Acts passed.

23. During the year 1915-16 two Acts were passed by the Bengal Legislative Council, namely :—the Bengal Decentralization Act, 1915

(Bengal Act V of 1915), and the Bengal Smoke-nuisances (Amendment) Act, 1916 (Bengal Act I of 1916). The former Act became law during that year and the latter Act shortly after the close of the year. Each of these Acts is further discussed under the head "Course of Legislation" in Part II of this report.

POLICE.

Rewards. 24. The Inspector-General of Police and the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, have been authorized to grant rewards to members of the force and to the public for good work in the prevention and detection of crime. The rewards offered by Government for the arrest of dacoits have had a good effect in inducing the people to resist attacks.

Motor car rules. 25. The new rules regulating the use of motor vehicles in Calcutta (including the suburbs) and the Municipality of Howrah came into force from the 1st April 1915. A superior appointment was created for the proper administration of the rules.

Administration. 26. Sanction was received during the year to the formation of a new Range, comprising the Burdwan Division. The post of the second Assistant to the Inspector-General was also made permanent.

River Police districts. 27. A notification was published defining the modified jurisdiction of the general river police districts in the Presidency of Bengal.

Military Police. 28. The military efficiency of the Dacca battalion earned the highest commendation from the General Officer Commanding, Presidency Brigade. The battalion was able to send a half company for field service with one of the expeditionary forces.

Crime. 29. Serious crime of all kinds except rioting increased. The most serious outbreak of dacoity occurred in Bakarganj. A special Commission constituted under the Defence of India Act sat for over six months and tried 144 cases, in which 198 persons were implicated. Forty-one cases ended in conviction, and 163 persons were sentenced to various terms of transportation and imprisonment.

Political Crime. 30. The year under review was unfortunately marked by a recrudescence of political crime. The number of cases believed to be connected with the revolutionary movement included 24 dacoities, 2 attempted dacoities, 9 murders and 1 attempted bomb outrage. Of these, 7 dacoities and 5 murders were committed in Calcutta. Among the victims in the murder cases were a Deputy Superintendent of Police and his child, two Sub-Inspectors of Police, a Calcutta Constable, the Head Master of the Comilla Zilla School, a Police informer and three private persons. In none of these cases was sufficient evidence forthcoming to justify the persons suspected being placed on their trial, but five notorious Bengali desperadoes who had long been known to be engaged in murderous outrages were rounded up in Orissa where they had established a retreat. In the course of the resistance which they offered, one was killed and another mortally wounded. The other three were eventually tried by a Special Commission under the Defence of India Act and were convicted, two being sentenced to death and one to transportation for life. The Defence of India Act was extended to Bengal in April and proved

a useful weapon in dealing with revolutionary crime. The restrictions placed on the movements of several of the well known members of the revolutionary party in Bengal resulted in checking, in a great measure, their activities and in the breaking-up of the organizations to which they belonged. Three Special Commissions were appointed under the Defence of India Act to try three cases of dacoity of a political nature; and another Special Commission was appointed to try a serious outbreak of dacoities in the Bakarganj district.

Nineteen persons were found to be implicated in the German-Indian caspiracy to cause an insurrection in British India and were arrested and detained under Regulation III of 1818.

An Additional Legal Remembrancer was appointed temporarily for one year with effect from the 1st February 1916 to work out, in consultation with the Legal Remembrancer, a detailed scheme for the organization of a Department of Public Prosecutions in Bengal. He is responsible for the prosecution of such important State trials as may be entrusted to him, and his duties in this respect are confined to scrutinizing the evidence of the prosecution, preparing the case for trial in Court and instructing Counsel.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

Work of the year.

31. During 1915, there was a decrease, as compared with the previous year, in the number of criminal cases disposed of by Magistrates in the mufassal and also in the Presidency town; on the other hand, there was a substantial increase in the outturn of the Honorary Magistrates in the mufassal. Magistrates disposed of less appellate and revisional work during the year. In the Courts of Session there was an increase of Original and Appellate, but a decrease of revisional work. In the High Court there was a slight increase both in Original and Appellate work and a decrease in revisional work.

JAILS.

Overcrowding.

32. The number of prisoners admitted increased considerably, and the daily average population was 14,473 against 12,496 in the preceding year. In most of the overcrowded jails temporary sheds were erected.

Health.

33. The daily average number of prisoners in hospitals rose from 582 in the previous year to 765. There was marked improvement in the health of some of the jails, but Dinajpur is still the most unhealthy jail of the Province. The area from which this jail draws its population is so unhealthy that a large proportion of the prisoners who died during the year were admitted direct to hospital on conviction or very soon after their arrival in the jail. A new hospital is being constructed.

Escapes.

34. In the Patuakhali sub-jail a number of desperate under-trial prisoners overpowered the jail staff and found their way out. All except two were recaptured, tried and convicted to various terms of imprisonment.

Juvenile Jail.

35. The formation of a representative committee is contemplated with the object of providing work for juvenile offenders on release. The manufacture of quinine tablets has developed in a remarkable manner.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

Work of the year.

36. There was a very large increase in the number of original suits instituted in the mufassal courts. The arrears consequently rose. In spite of a substantial increase in the outturn of work. A satisfactory reduction, however, was effected in the number of suits pending over one year. The Appellate file was marked by a decrease in institutions, but, although the disposals increased, the pending file and the number of year-old appeals rose slightly owing to the heavy arrears outstanding from the previous year. Excluding the cases pertaining to Bihar and Orissa, the institutions and disposals on the Appellate side of the High Court were less than in 1914, and there was a slight rise in the pending file.

REGISTRATION.

Appointment of Additional District Magistrates as *ex-officio* District Registrars.

37. The appointment of additional Magistrates in several districts led to the consideration of the question whether they or the District Magistrates should be the Registrars of their respective districts under section 6 of the Indian Registration Act. It was decided that in districts where the District Magistrate was able to do the work of the Registration Department as *ex-officio* Registrar, he should do so, and that in districts where relief was required it should be given by the appointment of the Additional District Magistrate to be the District Registrar. Orders were accordingly issued appointing the Additional District Magistrates of Dacca, Mymensingh, Bakarganj and Tippera to be *ex-officio* Registrars of their respective districts.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

Re-constitution of Municipalities on an elective basis.

38. In accordance with the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Decentralization that Municipal Boards should ordinarily be constituted on the lines of a substantial elective majority, the elective system was introduced in nine Municipalities which had previously been included in Schedule I of the Bengal Municipal Act, under which the Municipal Commissioners are all appointed by Government.

Relaxation of control over Municipal budgets.

39. In view of the growing sense of responsibility and the capacity for self-management displayed by Municipal Boards, orders were issued relaxing the financial control exercised by Commissioners over Municipal budgets. It was laid down that Municipalities would have a free hand in framing their budgets and that Commissioners would only be required to see that the necessary minimum closing balance is retained, that due provision is made for the service of all Municipal loans and that the provisions of the law, statutory rules and Government orders are complied with.

Town-planning Exhibition by Prof. Geddes.

40. A town-planning exhibition was held in Calcutta in November and December 1915 by Professor Geddes of Edinburgh, at the expense of Government and the Improvement Trust, and was visited by the Chairmen of a large number of Municipalities.

41. Five schemes of improvement were sanctioned during the year. One of these schemes prolongs the widening of Russa Road towards the southern boundary of the Calcutta Municipality. Three others initiate the construction of a highway through the northern part of the city. Certain sections of the Calcutta Improvement Act were extended to the Maniktolla Municipality. **Calcutta Improvement Trust.**

42. The desirability of spending large sums of money from the Public Works Cess on the excavation of tanks in rural areas was impressed on all District Boards. Their attention was also drawn to the recommendation of the District Administration Committee that the Public Works Cess should be utilised for financing Union Committees, and they were warned against any increase in establishment or other recurring expenditure which might absorb a large part of the additional income obtained from the surrender of the Cess. **Utilization of Public Works Cess.**

43. Rule 5 of the model rules for the management of Provident Funds by District Boards was amended so as to enable the latter to contribute a sum equal to that contributed by the employés themselves. **Provident Fund Rules.**

44. Considerable progress was made in the constitution of Union Committees under the Local Self-Government Act, altogether 82 committees being established during the year. The areas under these committees are conterminous with Panchayati Unions, and arrangements have been made that members of the Chaukidari Punchayats should also be members of the Union Committees with a view to the ultimate fusion of the two bodies under the scheme recommended by the District Administration Committee. Progress with the formation of Union Committees was most marked in the districts of Dacca, Faridpur and Rangpur. **Union Committees.**

MARINE.

45. Owing to the war, much difficulty was experienced in filling vacancies in the sanctioned cadre of Leadsmen Apprentices in the Bengal Pilot Service. The Secretary of State was unable to procure suitable candidates in England, and he was accordingly moved to sanction the recruitment of Leadsmen Apprentices from the Merchant Service in the East. One Leadsmen Apprentice was appointed locally from the Merchant Service during the year. **Port of Calcutta.**

A revised system of storm-warning signals was approved by the Government of India and introduced, with effect from the 1st January 1916, in ports in the Bay of Bengal situated in this Presidency in supersession of the old system.

For the protection of shipping in the port of Calcutta, a Redwood's inflammable vapour and gas detecting apparatus was obtained from England for use in the holds of bulk-oil vessels after discharge.

The number of vessels visiting the port and clearing was 1,145 and 1,154 representing a gross tonnage of 4,832,612 and 4,750,736, respectively, as against 1,431 and 1,451 vessels representing a gross tonnage of 6,006,581 and 6,009,433, respectively, in the preceding year.

46. The income of the Calcutta Port Trust amounted during the year 1915-16 to Rs. 1,59,35,456, while the expenditure was Rs. 1,49,07,001 **Calcutta Port Trust.**

against Rs. 1,44,50,349 and Rs. 1,55,38,840, respectively, in the previous year. The total expenditure on capital works amounted to Rs. 71 lakhs. The principal works in progress during the year were much the same as in the previous year, *viz.*:—

(1) Provision of five additional berths at Garden Reach.
(2) Reclamation work in connection with the new Docks scheme.
(3) Construction of a four-storeyed warehouse for rail-borne tea and general merchandise.
(4) Purchase of a third suction dredger.

The Commissioners were authorised to raise, during the year, for expenditure on capital works, a debenture loan of Rs. 85 lakhs bearing interest at a rate not exceeding 4 per cent. per annum, repayable in 60 years. The 5½ per cent. loan of 1886 for Rs. 30 lakhs, which matured in February 1916, was repaid. The capital debt of the Trust at the end of the year was Rs. 10,75,49,302, against which the Commissioners hold properties valued at Rs. 14,10.70,051.

The navigable channel of the river Hooghly between Mud Point and Saugor was lighted throughout the year by means of 16 gas buoys and two boat buoys to facilitate night navigation. About 30 ships passed outward through the lighted channel at night.

Chittagong Port Trust.

47. The income of the Chittagong Port Trust was Rs. 4,55,498, including a Government grant of Rs. 1,50,000 and the expenditure was Rs. 4,62,184 against Rs. 3,69,121 and Rs. 3,90,550, respectively, in the preceding year. There was therefore a deficit of Rs. 6,686.

The Commissioners' proposal to purchase a second dredger for the port of Chittagong to improve the navigable channel for ocean-going traffic was under the consideration of Government. The number of vessels entering the port was 858 (including 535 inland steamers) with a gross tonnage of 626,305 against 714 vessels (including 420 inland steamers) representing a gross tonnage of 618,622 during the previous year.

Boiler Commission.

48. The question of the issue of rules to regulate the grant of leave and pension to the Boiler Inspectors, in pursuance of section 4 of the Bengal Steam-boilers and Prime-Movers Act, 1879, as amended by Act II of 1915, was under the consideration of Government.

Smoke-nuisances Commission.

49. The Bengal Smoke-nuisances Act, 1905, was amended to provide for a non-official majority on the Smoke-nuisances Board and to regulate the emission of offensive smoke from the furnaces of ocean-going steamers in the port of Calcutta. By virtue of a rule issued under the old Act, ocean-going steamers were exempt from the operation of the Act for two hours prior to leaving moorings, which accounted for much of the nuisance caused by them. The provision for the above close time has been withdrawn under the amending Act, which provides for a reasonable time being allowed for the emission of offensive smoke from ocean-going steamers. The amending Act also gives the Commission power to control the emission of smoke from fire-places of clubs, hotels, and similar institutions, which were previously not subject to the Act, and provides for certain other minor matters.

War Section.

50. As in the previous year matters connected with the war continued to be dealt with confidentially in the War Section of the Marine Department.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

AGRICULTURE.

Co-ordination of the work of the Agricultural and Co-operative Departments.

51. Much attention was devoted during the year to determining the lines on which the Agricultural and Co-operative Departments can work together and help one another. The discussions led to certain general conclusions as to what objects should be avoided as impracticable, what objects are immediately practicable and what objects should be kept in view for attempts in the future. It is considered desirable that Co-operative Credit Societies should not purchase improved seed or manure, but that they should advance money to their members to make their own purchases: the dissemination of literature to Co-operative Societies without ocular demonstration of results is not regarded as a useful measure: formal instruction of the officers of either Department in the work of the other is not expected to be attended by satisfactory results: co-operative agricultural production has not been considered practicable. The lines of work in which combination is believed to be immediately practicable and to which attention is now being given are the promotion of closer personal knowledge between the officers of the Co-operative Department and those of the Agricultural Department, and between the latter and the members of Co-operative Societies, and the explanation to members of Co-operative Societies by the officers of both Departments of demonstrations conducted both at the farms and on outlying demonstration plots. Among the lines of possible future development are co-operative reproduction of superior seed with a view to increasing the facilities for its wider distribution, and the co-operative sale of agricultural produce.

Distress in Bankura, Tippera and Noakhali districts.

52. During the year distress prevailed in the districts of Bankura, Tippera and Noakhali. In Bankura short and ill-distributed rainfall in June, July and August seriously diminished the outturn of the winter rice crop and made transplantation impossible over a large area. Relief measures were initiated in the month of August and continued until the close of the year, when over 20,000 people were in receipt of gratuitous relief and over 17,900 were finding employment on relief works. Special allotments included 4½ lakhs for loans under the Land Improvements and Agriculturists' Loans Acts, 1¾ lakhs for gratuitous relief, 1½ lakhs for relief works and ½ lakh for the relief of weavers.

In Tippera and Noakhali the distress was mainly due to unusual floods in June, July, August and October, which damaged the crops and in places made the transplantation of winter rice impossible. There had

previously been some distress on account of the low prices received for the jute crop of the previous year, and consequently the people were ill prepared for the loss caused by the floods. In Tippera relief measures began in June and were still in progress at the end of the year, when 6,000 people were in receipt of gratuitous relief and over 4,000 were employed on relief works: the special allotments included nearly 10 lakhs for loans, 1 lakh for gratuitous relief and ¾ lakh for relief works.

In Noakhali the conditions were not so serious as in Tippera, and the period of relief lasted from June till August, when conditions again became nearly normal: Rs. 80,000 were allotted for loans and Rs. 15,000 for gratuitous relief.

Neither famine nor scarcity was declared under the Famine Code in any of these districts during the year 1915-16.

Water hyacinth.

53. The water hyacinth (*Eichornia Crassipes*) is found in most parts of Bengal, but its appearance in Eastern Bengal is believed to date from only about five years ago, since when it has spread very rapidly and has caused serious interference with navigation in waterways. The Department of Agriculture has been investigating the subject during the past two years, and there is a hopeful prospect of establishing the value of water hyacinth for agricultural purposes as a manure. Analysis has shown that it contains a large percentage of potash, and experiments conducted on the Dacca Farm with the ashes of the dried plant and with the rotted plant have given promising results which will be published in due course. If the manurial value of the plant is fully established and widely recognized, it is hoped that cultivators will utilise it as manure and thus check its harmful effects on navigation.

Establishment of seed-stores.

54. In view of the expansion of demonstration work the establishment of seed-stores was considered necessary to meet the growing demand for improved seed, manure and implements. Accordingly a scheme for the establishment of a seed-store in each division in charge of the Divisional Superintendent of Agriculture was sanctioned and carried out during the year.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

Weather and crops.

55. The rainfall during the year was unevenly distributed. In Western Bengal it was insufficient, while Eastern Bengal suffered from excessive rainfall and floods. The season was on the whole not unfavourable for the *bhadoi* crops, and, though the winter rice crop failed in Bankura district to such an extent as to produce famine conditions, the outturn for the whole Province was 97 per cent. of a normal crop. After November there was a prolonged drought which had a bad effect on the *rabi* crops, the yield being 75 per cent. of the normal.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

Audit of the accounts of Central Co-operative Banks.

56. With a view to systematizing the audit of the accounts of Central Co-operative Banks, certain rules were prescribed during the year, laying down the procedure for the audit of accounts of such Banks.

FORESTS

Artificial regeneration of *sal*.

57. Steps have been taken to carry out an important modification in the method of regeneration of *sâl* forests, which are the most important of the forests in Bengal. The present method is to select for preservation the most promising specimens of naturally grown trees, to encourage their growth by felling inferior trees which obstruct them and to protect them from fire. The results of this method having proved unsatisfactory in the *sâl* forests of the Jalpaiguri and Buxa Forest Divisions, it has been decided to resort to artificial regeneration in lands cleared and prepared for the purpose, and working-plans for carrying out this method are under preparation.

MANUFACTURES AND MINES.

Development of industries.

58. The question of industrial development continued to receive careful attention, but financial considerations precluded the appointment of a Director of Industries, which, as mentioned in the last year's report, is an essential preliminary to intervention by Government.

A considerable amount of information on various subjects was, however, compiled and Government Departments were instructed *cæteris paribus* to utilise local manufactures in preference to imported articles.

Miscellaneous.

59. The war very greatly hampered the export from the United Kingdom of machinery and other articles needed in manufactures, but Government were successful in several cases in enabling firms to obtain their requirements.

TRADE.

Foreign trade.

60. The value of the sea-borne trade (private merchandise only, of the Presidency of Bengal was Rs. 143·46 crores against Rs. 131·63 crores in 1914-15, an increase of nearly 9 per cent. Of this total, imports accounted for Rs. 52·28 crores and exports for Rs. 91·18 crores. The share of Calcutta in the total trade was Rs. 139·56 crores, against Rs. 127·33 crores in the preceding year.

Imports.

61. Imports into Calcutta aggregated Rs. 51·68 crores, showing a fall of 8 per cent. The four classes into which the sea-borne trade is grouped for statistical purposes are :—I—Food, drink and tobacco, II—Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured, III—Articles wholly or mainly manufactured and IV—Miscellaneous and unclassified. The smart recovery shown by class I was chiefly due to larger imports of sugar and to increases under salt, rice and liquors. In class II the decline in receipts of mineral oil and timber more than balanced the increases under textile materials, manures and wood pulp, the latter due to the existence of a direct line of steamers to Scandinavia; while the very large deficit shown by class III represents a falling off under most of the important headings, principally, cotton yarns and fabrics, railway plant and rolling stock, manufactures of iron and steel and other metals, and machinery.

Exports.

62. The exports from Calcutta aggregated to Rs. 87·88 crores showing an advance of 23·5 per cent. Values in all four classes advanced. Tea raised the value of class I, coal, lac, hides and skins,

manganese ore, raw jute, and mica combined to raise the value of class II, myrabolams, indigo, pig iron, gunny bags and cloth, were responsible for the improvement in class III, and "articles exported by post" for the increase in class IV: these last were comforts for the troops.

Trans-frontier trade.

63. The value of the trans-frontier trade (merchandise only) was Rs. 105·94 lakhs against Rs. 108·88 lakhs in the preceding year. Some 40·6 per cent. was with Sikkim, while the shares of Nepal, Tibet, and Bhutan were 24·2, 29·7 and 5·5 per cent., respectively. The total trade with Sikkim amounted to Rs. 43 lakhs, of which imports into Bengal were valued at Rs. 26·80 lakhs The trade with Nepal amounted to Rs. 25·62 lakhs. Imports from Tibet were valued at Rs. 18·65 lakhs, and exports to that country at Rs. 12·74 lakhs. The total trade with Bhutan amounted to Rs. 5·83 lakhs.

Coasting trade.

64. The value of the coasting trade of the Presidency declined from Rs. 23·3 crores to Rs. 21·8 crores or by 6 per cent. Of this, 79 per cent. was with Burma, 7 per cent. with Madras, and 4 per cent. with Bombay. Imports fell from Rs. 14·45 crores to Rs. 14·09 crores, owing to smaller shipments of rice from Burma, of groundnuts from Madras, and of cotton manufactures from Bombay. The exports receded by Rs. 106 lakhs or 12 per cent. The articles chiefly responsible for the shrinkage were jute manufactures and coal.

Rail and river-borne trade.

65. The total value of the trade carried by rail and river was Rs. 218 crores as against Rs. 200 crores in 1914-15. Imports into Bengal (including Calcutta) from other Provinces were valued at Rs. 62 crores as compared with Rs. 54 crores in the preceding year. Exports from Bengal including Calcutta to other Provinces rose from Rs. 51·47 crores to Rs. 53·79 crores, an increase of 4 per cent.

The Indian Explosives Act, 1884 (IV of 1884).

66. The total number of licenses granted under the Act during the year fell from 2,115 to 2,052, of which 1,356 related to the manufacture, possession and sale of fireworks in villages and rural areas. Three cases of theft of explosives from magazines were reported, but the offenders were not traced. In one case the licensee was punished by the cancellation of his license for failure to observe the prescribed precautions.

Under the powers conferred by the Indian Explosives Rules, 1914, a form was prescribed for keeping records and accounts of all explosives in stock and of all sales and issues from magazines licensed. Forms F, J and L, and Police officers of the rank of Sub-Inspector were authorised to exercise, within the limits of their local jurisdiction, the powers of inspection, search, seizure, detention and removal of explosives in respect of licenses issued in Form D of the rules.

A set of instructions was also issued to ensure more careful supervision over magazines in the colliery areas of the Presidency.

Trading by Hostile Foreigners.

67. In consequence of the special measures taken to control the commercial undertakings of all hostile foreigners in India, and to close such of those concerns as were conducted solely or chiefly for the benefit of hostile aliens, the business of 27 persons and firms was closed under the Hostile Foreigners (Trading) Order, 1914, while 14 concerns were allowed to continue trading under the supervision of the

Controller of Hostile Firms. Of the forty-seven licenses to trade issued to British, allied or neutral firms in the previous year, one was withdrawn. Mr. E. E. Meugens hold the office of Controller of Hostile Firms throughout the year. Towards the close of the year Mr. J. G. Drummond, I.C.S., was appointed Custodian of Enemy Property under the Enemy Trading Act, 1915 (XIV of 1915), for the purpose of receiving, holding and dealing with such money as might be paid to him in pursuance of the provisions of the Act.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT—ESTABLISHMENT.

Appointment of temporary Upper Subordinates.

68. In exercise of the discretionary power delegated to this Government by the Government of India, Superintending Engineers have been authorized to appoint and promote temporary Upper Subordinates to duly sanctioned posts.

Formation of a Water-ways Subdivision.

69. A new Water-ways Subdivision was formed with effect from 1st November 1915 with head-quarters at Khulna for the general supervision of water-ways in the Sunderbans to the east of Khulna and for the better supervision of dredging operations.

Encouragement of the study of Oriental languages.

70. To encourage the study of Oriental languages, Engineer officers of the Imperial Branch of the Public Works Department have been made eligible for rewards on passing the Proficiency and High Proficiency Examinations in any vernacular language of the Province. They have also been made eligible for the Degree of Honour Examination under certain restrictions.

Selection of officers for higher appointments.

71. After considering the opinions expressed by Local Governments and Administrations regarding the selection of officers for the higher appointments in the Public Works Department, the Government of India have laid down the procedure to be followed in making promotions to the Chief, Superintending and Executive ranks of the Engineer Establishment.

The strength of the Department.

72. The strength of the Engineers Establishment in Bengal has been fixed at 48, to be composed of 32 Imperial and 16 Provincial Service officers. The number of superior posts is 23. For the purposes of calculating the relative strength of the Imperial and Provincial services, it has been assumed that the superior posts will consist of 15 Imperial Service officers and 8 Provincial Service officers. The posts are not, however, reserved, in any sense of the term, for officers of either service.

BUILDINGS.

73. The important Imperial works completed or in progress during the year were :—

Imperial.

The Salt golas and the new Post Office at Chittagong; the Settlement buildings at Comilla and Jessore; combined Post and Telegraph Offices at Nator, Alipur Duars and Nam Khana in the Sundarbans; a residence for the Settlement Officer at Rajshahi and the work of clearing the old Presidency Jail site, Calcutta, and levelling the compound in connection with the lay-out of the Victoria Memorial Gardens.

Provincial.

74. The chief Provincial works completed or in progress were :—

(1) The Gurkha Guards' quarters and Gurkha Officers' quarters and lumber-room at Government House, Darjeeling.

(2) The New Camp Secretariat building and the bungalows for Secretaries and Heads of Departments at Dacca.

(3) Additions and alterations to the Collectorate at Barisal and to the Deputy Commissioner's Cutchery at Darjeeling.

(4) A double Munsifi at Magura; and the new Record-room to the Judge's Court at Midnapore.

(5) Additions and alterations to the Jail at Comilla; the Jail Hospital at Rangpur; extension of the Sub-jail at Satkhira; and the Forms Store in connection with the Press in the Central Jail at Alipore.

(6) The buildings for the Military Police at Dacca; the new Reserve Police Lines at Chittagong; the Police Barracks at Bloomfield Spur, Darjeeling; works in connection with the Police Training College at Sardah and the new Police Training School at Dhullandah; the new residence for the Superintendent of Police at Alipore; and a large number of new Police-stations in the Northern and Eastern Circles.

(7) The Dining Hall for the new College in connection with the Dacca University; laying out of the Dacca University playing fields on the Amlapara site; improvements to the sanitation of the Victoria Boys' School and the Dow Hill Girls' School at Kurseong; acquisition of land for a Hostel for the Ripon College; additional land for the Bethune College; the new University Institute; and the extension of the Baker Madrasa Hostel at Calcutta.

(8) The School of Tropical Medicine and the acquisition of land for the new Eye Hospital of the Medical College at Calcutta.

(9) Under contribution works, the new Chapel in the Presidency General Hospital, Bhowanipur; the new Hospital for Tropical diseases at the Medical College, Calcutta, and the Infectious diseases wards and Nurses' Home for the Mitford Hospital at Dacca.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Communications.

75. The sections of the Grand Trunk Road temporarily in charge of the District Boards of Hooghly and Burdwan were resumed by the Public Works Department for maintenance. The metalled surface of the road in the Asansol subdivision was widened from 8 to 12 feet.

The construction of a steel pile bridge over the Jamuna river at Hilli in the district of Dinajpur which was commenced last year, was in progress, and the erection of an inspection bungalow at that place was nearly completed.

The widening of the Tista Valley Road from the junction of the old and new roads up to the Gaille Jhora in the district of Darjeeling was

in progress. A suspension bridge was erected over the Rongdong Jhora in the 9th mile of the Rangit Valley Road.

The construction of new metalled roads and the metalling and improvement of existing roads in the Jalpaiguri Duars was in progress and a number of important bridges were under construction. The construction of several inspection bungalows was also in progress.

The construction of three roads in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, *viz.*, (1) from Mohulsory to Ramgarh, (2) Nainyar Char to Mainimukh, and 3) from Khagraseny to Dighinalla, was in progress and the substitution of masonry culverts for wooden bridges was carried out in miles 25 and 26 of the Chittagong Trunk Road.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

Miscellaneous Public improvements.

76. The erection of an electric sub-station by the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation on the Calcutta Maidan near Babu Bathing Ghat was sanctioned by the Government of India.

The encroachment of the coast at Noakhali by the river Megna continued; a slight improvement in the rate of erosion occurred during the year.

RAILWAYS.

Administration.

77. The Government of India in the Railway Department (Railway Board) control the larger and more important railway systems in Bengal. Six light Railways are to some extent under the control of the Government of Bengal.

Mileage.

78. During the year, 97·25 miles of new railway lines were opened for traffic, bringing the total mileage in Bengal to 2,938·42 miles.

Surveys.

79. Reconnaissance and detailed surveys of several new projects were authorised by the Government of India.

Lines opened during the year.

80. The following important lines were opened or partially opened during the year:—

(1) The Sara-Serajganj Railway (Ishurdi-Bhangura Ghat section).
(2) The Burdwan-Katwa Railway.
(3) The Siliguri-Reang section of the Teesta Valley Extensions of the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway.

Important lines under construction.

81. The following important lines were under construction during the year:—

(1) Mymensingh-Bhairab Bazar Railway.
(2) Sara-Serajganj Railway (Bhanguraghat-Serajganj Section).
(3) Bankura-Damodar River Railway.
(4) Ahmedpur-Katwa Railway.
(5) Kalighat-Falta Railway.
(6) Burdwan-Howrah Chord Railway.
(7) Burdwan-Katwa Railway.

Lines sanctioned for construction.

82. The Railway Board sanctioned the construction of the following lines of Railways:—

(1) Khulna-Bagerhat Railway.
(2) Kamarkundu to Bally section of the Burdwan-Howrah Chord.
(3) Kalighat-Falta Railway.
(4) Mymensingh-Bhairab Bazar Railway.

CANALS.

Major works.

83. The major Irrigation works in Bengal are the Midnapore and the Hijili Tidal Canals. The latter is for navigation only, while the former provides for both irrigation and navigation. The area irrigated during the year was 83,649 acres as compared with 78,310 acres during the preceding year. The revenue from these two canals amounted to Rs. 2.77,798 as against Rs. 2,53,369 during the previous year. The increase is chiefly under Hijili Tidal Canal and is due to the fact that there was an increase in traffic on account of better outturn of crops in the area served by the canal.

Minor works.

84. The minor works for navigation are the Calcutta and Eastern Canals, the Madaripur Bhil Canal, a portion of the Orissa Coast Canal, the Nadia rivers and the Gaighatta and Baxi Khal, while the Eden Canal, which is classed under this head, is used for irrigation ; the Uttarbhag Lock, which has been constructed in connection with the Magra Hat Drainage Scheme, is treated as a minor work for navigation. Training works on the rivers Ganges, Dhaleswari and Buriganga are also classed under this head The capital outlay on works under this head for which capital accounts are kept, to the end of the year, stood at Rs. 1,28,42,021. The receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 5,79,291 as against Rs. 4,29,591 during the year 1914-15. The increase was chiefly on account of the Madaripur Bhil Canal and is due to the western entrance of the channel having been kept open for traffic during the rains, which was not the case during the preceding two years.

EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

Expenditure.

85. The expenditure on embankments was Rs. 7,58,179 and on drainage works Rs. 90,574 during the year.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

IMPERIAL FINANCE.

Imperial Finance.

86. The Imperial receipts amounted to Rs. 8,86,99,537 against Rs. 8,36,76,304 and the charges to Rs. 88,78,081 against Rs. 1,00,84,117 in the previous year. The increase in receipts was due chiefly to a larger supply of opium to the Governments of the Straits Settlements and Hongkong and partly also to increased receipts from stamps following on the recovery of trade and the opening of the share market. The decrease in expenditure was chiefly due to the completion of Settlement work in Faridpur and Jalpaiguri and to the absence of items of specially large expenditure under Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department as compared with the previous year.

EXCISE.

Enhancement of duty on ganja.

87. In order to transfer a portion of the revenue from license fees to duty and thus to secure a more suitable proportion between the two sources, the rate of duty on all descriptions of ganja was increased from Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per seer throughout the Presidency with effect from the 1st April 1915.

Raising of the issue prices of Excise opium.

88. The issue price of Excise opium in the various districts of the Presidency of Bengal, which previously ranged from Rs. 29 to Rs. 35 a seer, was fixed at the uniform rate of Rs. 40 per seer with effect from the 1st April 1915.

Powers and position of the Deputy Commissioners of Excise and Salt, Bengal, and their relation to the Collectors.

89. In consequence of the creation of Superintendents of Excise and Salt in each district and of two Deputy Commissioners in the Presidency, Government reviewed the relative positions of the Collector and the Deputy Commissioner of Excise in the scheme of district administration. It was decided that the Collector of the district should, as hitherto, continue to control the preventive officers and be responsible for the supervision of their work and that the Deputy Commissioner should assist the Collector as an inspecting and advisory officer. It was also decided that the immediate control of the warehouse and distillery staff should remain in the hands of the district officer.

INCOME TAX.

Investment of Subdivisional Officers with the powers of Income-tax Deputy Collectors.

90. With the formation of a close Excise service, the question of the separation of excise work from income-tax work was considered, and it was decided that all Subdivisional Officers, including those of Sadar Subdivisions, should administer the Income-tax Act in their respective jurisdictions. In those Sadar Subdivisions where no Sub-Divisional Officer had been appointed, the work was entrusted to a Deputy Collector empowered under the Act.

PROVINCIAL FINANCE.

Provincial Finance.

91. The Provincial receipts amounted to Rs. 6,34,37,000, and the charges to Rs. 6,30,71,000, against Rs. 6,22,10,000 and Rs. 6,67,61,000, respectively, in the preceding year. The increase in receipts occurred chiefly under Land Revenue and was due to improved collections in Government Estates and to the sale of certain Khas Mahal lands to the Calcutta Improvement Trust. There was also an increase under Stamps due to the partial recovery of trade and to increased activity in the share market. The decrease of expenditure occurred chiefly under Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department owing to the issue of orders for the curtailment of expenditure, and partly also under Education and Medical, smaller grants having been made for land acquisition and private hospitals.

LOCAL FINANCE.

Local Finance.

92. The total receipts of Local Funds amounted to Rs. 1,19,14,609 and the charges to Rs. 1,28,62,533 leaving a closing balance of Rs. 39,01,996 against an opening balance of Rs. 48,49,920. The decrease in the balance is chiefly due to larger expenditure by the District Boards

specially in Bankura, Burdwan, Howrah, Jessore, Khulna, Nadia, Mymensingh, Chittagong, Noakhali and Tipperah. Three thousand rupees and Rs. 8,000 were given to the Collector of Tipperah from the Ram Lal Mukherji's Endowment and Joygobinda Laha's Funds, respectively, for relief of distress due to inundation in that district. The Mohsin Endowment Fund was relieved of the charges of all Government Madrasas and grants-in-aid to non-Government Madrasas, while the fees from students in Madrasas were credited to Provincial Revenues and no Government grant was made to the fund. The fund now bears half the boarding charges and half the fees and special scholarships of Muhammadan boys.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

MEDICAL SERVICE.

Rules under the Bengal Medical Act, 1914.

93. Under section 33 of the Bengal Medical Act, 1914, Government framed rules to regulate the appointment and election of members of the Bengal Council of Medical Registration and to carry out the purposes of the Act generally. The Council of Medical Registration with the previous approval of Government framed rules under sections 13 and 33 and regulations and orders under sections 12(1), 15(1) and 32(1) of the Act.

Extension of sections 29, 30 and 31 of the Bengal Medical Act, 1914.

94. Under the powers conferred by the proviso to sub-section (3) of section 1 of the Bengal Medical Act, 1914, Government appointed the 1st January 1916 as the date on and from which the provisions of sections 29, 30 and 31 of the Act would come into force.

Indian Medical Degrees Act, 1916.

95. A Bill to regulate the grant of titles implying qualifications in Western Medical Science, and the assumption and use by unqualified persons of such titles, was passed into law by the Imperial Legislative Council in March 1916 as the "Indian Medical Degrees Act VII of 1916". Its main objects are to restrict to duly constituted authorities the right to issue degrees and diplomas in the Western systems of medicine and surgery and thus to ensure that such degrees and diplomas are not issued to unqualified persons. In consequence of the passing of the new Act, two medical institutions at Calcutta, *viz.*, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of India and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Calcutta, have been closed, while the authorities of a third institution of this class, *viz.*, the National Medical College of India, are taking steps to raise its status to the standard required under the rules of the Bengal State Medical Faculty.

Establishment of a School of Tropical Medicine in Calcutta.

96. The revised proposals submitted by Government in connection with the staff required for a fully equipped School of Tropical Medicine in Calcutta, have received the sanction of the Secretary of State for India on the understanding that the School will not be started until officers are available and financial conditions permit. The staff will comprise

four Professors (one of whom will be the Director of the School) to be recruited from the Indian Medical Service and five demonstrators; and should the term of the Imperial Serologist be extended, the officer holding that post will act as Professor of Biochemistry and Serology of the School. The total annual recurring expenditure is estimated at Rs. 1,04,208-8-0 which will be borne for the first five years partly by the Indian Research Fund Association and partly by Provincial Revenues.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Leonard Rogers, KT., I.M.S.. undertook to raise funds for the construction of a Hospital for Tropical Diseases associated with the School of Tropical Medicine, and as a result of his appeals to the public and to industrial associations subscriptions and donations have been secured which enable a fully equipped hospital to be constructed and special researches to be undertaken into the diseases prevalent among the labour employed in the jute, tea and mining industries. The Hospital for Tropical Diseases, the foundation-stone of which was laid by His Excellency Lord Carmichael on the 24th February 1916, is now under construction and is estimated to cost Rs. 3,13,000.

Belgachia Medical College.

97. On the recommendation of the University of Calcutta the Government of India sanctioned under the provisions of the Indian Universities Act, 1904, the affiliation to the University of the new Medical College at Belgachia (Calcutta) in Medicine up to the standard of the preliminary scientific M.B. Examination with effect from the beginning of the session 1916-17.

Rules under the Indian Lunacy Act.

98. Owing to the passing of the Indian Lunacy Act, 1912 (Act IV of 1912), it was found desirable to recast the existing rules for the management and control of Lunatic Asylums in Bengal, and a new set of rules was accordingly framed under sub-section (1) of section 91 of the said Act and brought into effect in supersession of all previous rules on the subject.

Training of Indian Nurses.

99. The scheme for training Indian nurses which was initiated and started last year at the Victoria Hospital, Darjeeling, and at St. Andrew's Colonial Home and Charteris Hospital, Kalimpong, was introduced at the Sambhunath Pandit Hospital, Bhowanipore (Calcutta), with effect from the 1st April 1915.

Motor Ambulance Service in Calcutta.

100. The Corporation of Calcutta having recognised the necessity for providing a more modern and efficient service for the conveyance of cases of accident and infectious and other diseases to hospital than the existing horse ambulance, decided to organise a motor ambulance service staffed and worked entirely by the Calcutta Fire Brigade, and, as an experimental measure, to make a start with two motor ambulances. Government approved the scheme and agreed to bear one-third of the initial cost and of the recurring working charges of the two ambulances. The St. John Ambulance Association has generously presented the Corporation with two motor ambulances, one of which has been doing useful work since the 26th January 1916.

EMIGRATION.

Recruitment of Emigrants for Assam.

101. The system of recruitment by contractors and their recruiters under Chapter III of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901 (VI of 1901), was abolished by the Government of India with effect from

the 1st July 1915. Notifications were issued by this Government and the Assam Administration prohibiting the execution of labour contracts, both in the recruiting and labour districts. To facilitate recruitment by *bonâ-fide* garden-sardars, the concessions previously allowed only to sardars working under the control of approved associations were extended to sardars working under the supervision of duly licensed local agents. Thus emigrants recruited by sardars working under local agents, employed either by a recognised association or by an individual, are no longer required to be produced before a Government officer for registration, and though the local agents have to keep certain registers, to supply any information for which the Magistrate may call and to produce emigrants for examination when ordered, yet in practice the actual control and responsibility for recruitment now rest with the local agent.

With a view to removing, as far as possible, restrictions on recruitment for tea gardens in Assam, orders were issued to the effect that the visits of Police officers to places of accommodation provided for the recruits of garden-sardars should be limited to occasions on which such officers have to investigate specific complaints of offences, and that the duty of formally inspecting these places should not be delegated by Magistrates to officers of the Police.

Abolition of the thana parade of Nepalese Military recruits at Darjeeling.

102. The practice of parading Gurkha recruits for the Army at the Darjeeling Police-station to enable the tea-planters to claim runaway coolies, which had been suspended experimentally for one year in 1914, was finally abolished.

SANITATION.

Sanitation Committees.

103. In order to ensure uniformity in the functions exercised by the Sanitation Committees, which had hitherto varied considerably, rules were issued regulating their powers and duties under section 138 (*n*) of the Local Self-Government.

Duties of Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors.

104. Model rules were framed under clause (*b*) of section 351*a* (1) of the Bengal Municipal Act prescribing the duties of Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors of Municipalities other than Calcutta.

Extension of the Bengal (Sanitary Officers' Act) Act II of 1914.

105. The Bengal (Sanitary Officers' Act) Act II of 1914 was declared to be in force in 83 Municipalities situated in all the Divisions of the Presidency, and the number and class of Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors to be appointed by each were fixed by notification.

Curtailment of Sanitary Works and of expenditure from the Sanitary grant.

106. The usual provision of Rs. 9,50,000 was made during the year 1915-16 for sanitation, but in consequence of financial stringency a sum of Rs. 6,50,000 had to be surrendered in the third quarter of the financial year. Of the balance of Rs. 3,00,000, over one lakh was spent on sanitary works connected with the relief of distress in Bankura and Tipperah, and the rest on ordinary recurring sanitary expenditure and drainage works in Burdwan, Bankura and Faridpur.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

EDUCATION.

Colleges. (a) Appointment of a Bursar and Dean for the Presidency College, Calcutta.

107. In order to give the Principal of the Presidency College some relief and enable him to undertake teaching work, the Secretary of State sanctioned the appointment of two professors of the College as Bursar and Dean, their duties being to assist the Principal in financial and administrative matters.

(b) David Hare Training College.

108. Administrative approval was given to a building scheme for the David Hare Training College at a cost of Rs. 5,68,380 and land was acquired for the purpose at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,49,912.

Muhammadan Education. (a) Maintenance of Government Madrasas and the utilization of the Mohsin Fund.

109. Government decided that the cost of all Government Madrasas and of grants-in-aid to non-Government Madrasas, which had hitherto been a charge on the Mohsin Fund, should henceforth be debited to Provincial Revenues, and that the amount so set free from the Mohsin Fund should be utilized for the award of stipends to deserving Muhammadan students.

(b) Establishment of a hostel for Muhammadan students in Calcutta.

110. On account of the insufficiency of accommodation for Muhammadan students in the Baker Hostel, Government opened a temporary hostel for them in a hired house in Wellington Street. The hostel is under the general supervision of the Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education, who is assisted by a visiting Committee of representative Muhammadans.

Technical Education. (a) Manual Training.

111. Government approved a scheme for the introduction of manual training in 24 high and zilla schools and sanctioned the appointment of 24 temporary teachers.

(b) Mining Education.

112. Government sanctioned the award of special scholarships of the value of Rs. 50 and Rs. 25 a month for Europeans and Indians, respectively, tenable in the mining classes of the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur. Arrangements were made as an experimental measure for the delivery of a course of vernacular lectures in the coal-fields.

(c) Weaving Institute.

113. A scheme for the grant of advances for the purchase of weaving appliances to passed students of the Government Weaving Institute at Serampore and its affiliated schools was sanctioned by the Secretary of State for a period of 10 years in the first instance.

Commercial Education.

114. An evening accountancy class was opened in the Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta. Revised rules for the Institute were framed and published in the *Calcutta Gazette*.

Backward classes. (a) Education of the children of tea garden coolies.

115. A scheme, prepared in consultation with the planting community, for the improvement of facilities for the education of children of tea garden coolies in the Duars was approved by Government. In pursuance of this scheme 30 new schools were built.

(b) Development of Santhal Education.

116. Sanction was given to a scheme for the improvement of primary education among Santhals in the districts of Birbhum, Bankura and Midnapore. The scheme provides for the improvement of existing

Santhal schools, the institution of 10 new schools, an increase of the inspecting staff, the provision of lower primary scholarships and the development of the existing Mission School at Sarenga in the district of Bankura.

(c) Education of factory children.

117. Government sanctioned the establishment of two schools exclusively for the education of the children of mill-hands in the district of the 24-Parganas at an initial cost of Rs. 27,000 and a recurring expenditure of Rs. 6,480 per annum.

Grants to the Calcutta University for hostels.

118. In March 1915 His Excellency the Chancellor promised a grant of 10 lakhs to the University of Calcutta on certain conditions for the building of hostels for undergraduates studying in affiliated colleges in Calcutta. A conference held in Darjeeling approved of the following distribution of the grant:—

Metropolitan Institution hostel Rs. 2,00,000, Ripon College hostel Rs. 2,00,000, Bangabasi College hostel Rs. 2,00,000, St. Xavier's College hostel Rs. 60,000, City College hostel Rs. 2,70,000, Muhammadan hostel Rs. 2,00,000, and Infirmary for University students Rs. 1,20,000. The Government of Bengal expressed their willingness to make a further contribution up to the limit of 3½ lakhs to supplement the Viceroy's grant.

Reformatory and industrial schools.

119. In connection with the question of introducing reformed methods of treating juvenile offenders an officer, who had formerly been an Inspector of Industrial and Reformatory Schools in England, was placed on special duty to prepare a scheme for the establishment of a reformatory school and industrial school on modern lines.

DACCA MUSEUM.

Dacca Museum.

120. The museum recently founded at Dacca was attached to the Dacca College, and funds were provided for its maintenance.

INDIAN MUSEUM.

Abolition of the Art Gallery Committee of the Indian Museum.

121. The Art Gallery Committee, which was originally appointed in 1877 in order that it might render assistance in the selection of the works of art that were purchased for the Art Gallery collection out of the grants made by the Government of Bengal, came to an end with the resignation of those members who were not also Trustees of the Indian Museum. The Committee was, after the passing of the Museum Act of 1910, no longer in a position to exercise the full functions of an Art Committee; and in the altered circumstances Government accepted the resignations tendered by the members of the Committee.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

Press.

122. The general tone of the Press was loyal. Except for an occasional tendency to belittle the successes of the Allies and to question the completeness of the information given in Reuter's telegrams the references in the Press to the war were on the whole unexceptionable

Generally speaking, the war dwarfed all the other subjects discussed in the Press and evoked in nearly all papers repeated expressions of loyalty to the British Empire and of a desire to assist and to refrain from embarrassing Government. Other subjects in which considerable interest was evinced were the formation of a Bengali Volunteer Corps, the recrudescence of revolutionary crime and the working of the Defence of India Act. As a result of the operation of the Indian Press Act, 12 leaflets and 3 books, the majority in Urdu, were forfeited and security was demanded from 3 papers and 8 printing presses. In no case was it necessary to exercise the powers under the Indian Naval and Military (Emergency) Ordinance of 1914.

Bengal Library.

123. Only one work on art, of any value, was published during the year which was, however, very fruitful in works of fiction, history, drama and biography. The domestic novel maintained its popularity and several valuable works on the early history of Bengal were published. The year was also marked by a revival of the historical drama, and some interesting biographical works were received. There was a slight falling-off in religious literature.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

VETERINARY.

Report on Survey and Census of the Cattle of Bengal.

124. In connection with the scheme for a cattle survey throughout India, the Government of India suggested that it should be preceded by a general preliminary survey of cattle in each of the major provinces on the lines followed in the Punjab. Mr. J. R. Blackwood, I.C.S., who was entrusted with the work of carrying out the survey in Bengal, submitted his report during the year. The suggestions made by him are under the consideration of Government.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Extension of certain Acts to the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

125. With the previous sanction of the Government of India, the following enactments were extended to the Chittagong Hill Tracts :—

I.—Acts of the Governor-General of India in Council.

(1) The Indian Post Office (Amendment) Act, 1903 (II of 1903).
(2) The Indian Limitation Act, 1908 (IX of 1908).
(3) The Whipping Act, 1909 (IV of 1909).
(4) The Indian Penal Code Amendment Act, 1910 (III of 1910).
(5) The Co-operative Societies Act, 1912 (II of 1912).
(6) The Indian Post Office (Amendment) Act, 1912 (III of 1912).
(7) The Indian Extradition (Amendment) Act, 1913 (I of 1913).

(8) The Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1913 (VIII of 1913).

(9) The Repealing and Amending Act, 1914 (X of 1914), in so far as it relates to the Acts in force in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

(10) The Indian Post Office and Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 1914 (XIV of 1914), except section 2.

II.—Bengal Act.

(11) The Bengal Public Demands Recovery Act, 1913 (Bengal Act III of 1913).

(12) The Bengal Medical Act, 1914 (Bengal Act VI of 1914).

Re-settlement of *Jhum* tax in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

126. The former settlement of this *Jhum* tax paid by the Chiefs in the Chittagong Hill Tracts expired on the 31st March 1915 and sanction was given to reassessment of the tax at the rate of Rs. 5 for each family in place of Rs. 4, the rate at which the tax was levied in previous years. The revised assessment, which has resulted in an increase of revenue by Rs. 8,786-8, or 63·6 of the amount formerly realised, will remain in force for 10 years.

Supply of official publications to the members of the Bengal Legislative Council.

127. In accordance with a recommendation made at the meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council held on the 26th July 1916, arrangements have been made for the regular supply to all members of the Council of copies of all ordinary Government publications which they desire to have sent to them.

THE WAR.

The War.

128. War broke out with Bulgaria on the 15th October 1915 There were no Bulgarians in Bengal, but the orders previously issued restricting the movements of German, Austro-Hungarian and Turkish subjects were extended to Bulgarian subjects.

Fifty-five German and Austrian men, women and children were repatriated from Bengal in November, and those who, on account of their age, infirmity or other reasons, were exempted from repatriation or from internment at Ahmednagar, continued to be interned at the local civil detention camps, or were allowed to reside at their homes under supervision on parole.

In March 1916, the Government of India sanctioned the enlistment in the British army, for the duration of the war, of men of the domiciled Anglo-Indian community, and the Heads of Departments and certain associations in Bengal were requested to encourage the movement among their employés.

PART II.

THE REPORT.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1915-16.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

	Page.	Para.
Physical features of the Country, Area, Climate and Chief Staples . . . Historical Summary of the Civil Administration of Bengal . . . . . Form of Administration . . . . . Character of Land Tenures; System of Surveys and Settlements . . . Civil Divisions of British Territory . . Details of the last Census (1911), Tribes and Languages	*See* pp. 1—134 of Part II of the Administration Report for 1911-12.	
Changes in the Administration—		
Bengal Secretariat	1	1
Judicial	1	2
Police	1	3
Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs—		
Cooch Behar—		
Birth of a son and heir . . .	1	4
War	1	5
The Council	2	6
Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs—*concld.*		
Cooch Behar—*concld.*		
State Railways	2	7
Finance	2	8
Crops and condition of the people .	2	9
Criminal Justice	2	10
Education	2	11
Public health	2	12
Hill Tippera—		
Change in Administration . . .	2	13
War	2	14
Political Agent	2	15
Revenue and Finance	2	16
Protection	2	17
Weather and Crops	3	18
Condition of the People—		
The agricultural classes . . .	3	19
Wages and salaries	3	20

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Realization of the Revenue—		
Total collections	4	21
Collections in—		
(a) Permanently-settled estates . .	4	22
(b) Temporarily-settled estates . .	4	23
(c) Estates held direct by Government	4	24
Miscellaneous land revenue . .	4	25
Changes in land revenue demand of temporarily-settled estates and estates under direct management . .	5	26
Redemption of land revenue . .	5	27
Remittance of land revenue and rent by money-orders	5	28
Coercive measures—		
(a) Sale laws	5	29
(b) Certificate procedure . . .	5	30
Realization of Government and other demands by imprisonment . .	5	31
Processes	5	32
Other Revenue Work—		
Land Registration	6	33
Partition	6	34
Land acquisition	6	35
Loans—		
(a) Land Improvement Loans Act . .	6	36
(b) Agriculturists' Loans Act . .	6	37
Surveys—		
Outturn of the year	7	38
Land Records and Settlements—		
General	7	39
Land Revenue settlements . . .	7	40
Other settlements	7	41
Jalpaiguri and Faridpur . . .	7	42
Dacca	7	43
Mymensingh	7	44
Midnapore	7	45
Rajshahi	7	46
Tippera and Noakhali	8	47
Minor settlements	8	48
Boundary marks	8	49
Waste Lands—		
Waste lands	8	50
Government Estates—		
Number and management . . .	9	51
Grants for improvements . . .	9	52
Colonization in the Bakarganj Sundarbans	9	53
Roads	9	54
Education	9	55
Sale of estates	9	56

	Page.	Para.
WARDS' AND ATTACHED ESTATES—		
Number of estates and payment of Government demands	10	57
Rents and cesses due to superior landlords	10	58
Collection of rent and cesses	10	59
Balances of rent and cesses due to estates	10	60
Debts of estates	10	61
Management charges	11	62
Improvements	11	63
WARDS' AND ATTACHED ESTATES—*concld.*		
Lady Assistant	11	64
Education of the wards	11	65
REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES—		
Bengal Tenancy Act	11	66
Relations between landlords and tenants	11	67
Rent receipts	11	68
Illegal cesses	11	69

CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.

	Page.	Para.
LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITIES	*See* pp. 13-14 of Part II of the Administration Report for 1912-13.	
COURSE OF LEGISLATION—		
The Government of India Act, 1915	12	70
Acts passed by the Bengal Legislative Council during 1915-16	12	71
Bills pending during 1915-16	13	72
BENGAL POLICE—		
Administration	13	73
Buildings	13	74
Military Police	14	75
River Police	14	76
Chaukidars	14	77
Crime	14	78
Criminal tribes	15	79
Political crime	15	80
MORTALITY CAUSED BY WILD ANIMALS AND SNAKES—		
Wild animals	16	81
Snakes	16	82
Cattle killed by wild animals	16	83
Destruction of wild animals	17	84
POLICE ADMINISTRATION IN CALCUTTA—		
Reward	17	85
Building	17	86
Cruelty to animals	17	87
Juvenile offenders	17	88
Motor dacoities	17	89
Motor vehicles	17	90
Fire Brigade	17	91
CRIMINAL JUSTICE—		
Judicial staff	18	92
Offences reported	18	93
False cases	18	94
True cases	18	95
Original Jurisdiction—		
I.—Magistrate's Courts—		
Total cases for trial	18	96
A.—Presidency Magistrates, Calcutta—		
Cases for trial	18	97
Results of trials	19	98
B.—Magistrates outside Calcutta—		
Cases for trial	20	99
Results of trials	20	100
Punishments	21	101
CRIMINAL JUSTICE—*concld.*		
I.—Magistrate's Courts—*concld.*		
Miscellaneous Proceedings—		
Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter VIII	21	102
Ditto. Chapters X, XII and XXXVI	22	103
Witnesses	22	104
II.—Courts of Sessions—		
Commitments	22	105
Results of trials	22	106
Punishments	22	107
Jury trials	23	108
Trials with the aid of assessors	23	109
Duration of cases	23	110
Witnesses	23	111
Commitments, etc., to the High Court	23	112
III.—High Court Special Bench—		
Result of trial	23	113
Appellate Jurisdiction—		
I.—High Court—		
Appeals	24	114
Results of appeals	24	115
Appeals against acquittals	24	116
II.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court—		
Sessions Courts	24	117
Magistrates' Courts	25	118
Superintendence, References and Revision—		
I.—High Court—		
References under section 307, Criminal Procedure Code	25	119
References under section 374, Criminal Procedure Code	25	120
References under section 341, Criminal Procedure Code	25	121
Revision	25	122
Applications for transfer	26	123
II.—Courts subordinate to the High Court—		
Sessions Courts	26	124
Magistrates' Courts	26	125
III.—General—		
Trials of European British subjects	26	126
Results of revisional work	26	127
Receipts and charges	26	128
Criminal Justice in the Scheduled Districts of the Chittagong Hill Tracts—		
Chittagong Hill Tracts	27	129

	PAGE.	PARA.
JAILS—		
Jail population	27	130
Health and mortality of prisoners	27	131
Juvenile Jail	27	132
Jail industries	28	133
Dietary	28	134
Warder service	28	135
CIVIL JUSTICE—		
Judicial staff	28	136
Original Jurisdiction—		
I.—High Court—		
Original suits	29	137
Prize cases	29	138
Cases under the extraordinary jurisdiction	29	139
Probates and letters of administration, etc.	29	140
References to take accounts, etc.	30	141
Conveyances and sureties	30	142
Appeals from the original jurisdiction	30	143
References from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes	30	144
Transfers from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes	30	145
Insolvency cases	30	146
Duration of sittings	30	147
Appeals to the Privy Council	30	148
Receipts and Expenditure	30	149
Taxing office	30	150
II.—Civil Courts in the mufassal subordinate to the High Court—		
Original suits instituted	31	151
Local distribution	31	152
Nature of suits instituted	31	153
Number of suits disposed of and results of suits decided	31	154
Applications to retrial	32	155
Suits decided by Munsifs	32	156
Suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges and by Small Cause Court Judges	32	157
Average duration of suits	32	158
Pending suits	32	159
Execution proceedings	33	160
Miscellaneous cases	33	161
III.—Calcutta Small Cause Court—		
Number of suits	33	162
Mode of disposal	33	163
Appellate Jurisdiction—		
I.—High Court—		
Appeals under the Letters Patent	33	164
II.—Appeals from the Subordinate Civil Courts—		
Appeals to the High Court from Subordinate Courts	34	165
Appeals pending	34	166
Results of appeals	34	167
Appeals to the Privy Council (including figures of Bihar and Orissa and Assam)	34	168
Results of appeals to the Privy Council	35	169
III.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court—		
Appeals instituted	35	170
Appeals disposed of	35	171
Appeals pending	35	172
Results of appeals	35	173
General	35	174
Inspection	36	175
Receipts and charges of the Civil Courts	36	176
Civil Justice in the Schedule District of the Chittagong Hill Tracts—		
Chittagong Hill Tracts	36	177
REGISTRATION—		
Registration	36	178
Working of the Marriage Act, III of 1872	37	179
Working of the Muhammadan Marriage Registration Act and the Kazi's Act	37	180
Working of the Indian Companies Act, 1913, (VII of 1913)	37	181
Working of the Provident Insurance Societies Act, V of 1912	38	182
MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT—		
Municipalities outside Calcutta—		
Powers of Municipalities	38	183
Number of Municipalities and revision of boundaries	38	184
Elections	38	185
Number of meetings and attendance of Commissioners	39	186
Number of rate-payers	39	187
Assessment and taxation	39	188
Revision of assessment	39	189
Collections	39	190
Income and expenditure	39	191
Closing balances	40	192
Income—		
Tax on houses and lands	40	193
Tax on animals and vehicles	40	194
Tax on professions and trades	40	195
Tolls on roads and ferries	40	196
Water-rate	40	197
Lighting rate	40	198
Conservancy	40	199
Tax on persons	40	200
Realizations under Special Acts	40	201
Revenue from municipal property and powers other than taxation	41	202
Grants and contributions	41	203
Expenditure—		
Office establishment and collection charges	41	204
Prevention of fire	41	205
Lighting	41	206
Water-supply	41	207
Drainage	42	208
Conservancy	42	209
Sanitary officers	43	210
Hospitals and Dispensaries and plague charges	43	211
Public Works	43	212
Public instruction	43	213
Loans	43	214
Outstanding liabilities on account of current bills	43	215
Audit of accounts and embezzlement	43	216
Howrah	43	217
Administration	44	218
Calcutta Municipality—		
Introductory	45	219
By-laws and rules	45	220
Revenue funds	45	221
Loans and Loan funds	45	222
Loan liability, borrowing powers and Sinking Funds	46	223
Assessment	46	224
Surveyor's Department	46	225
Collections	46	226
Bustee Department	46	227
Stores Department	46	228
Water-supply	46	229
Drainage	46	230
Lighting	46	231
Roads and squares	47	232

	Page.	Para.
MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT—*concld.*		
Calcutta Municipality—*concld.*		
Conservancy	47	233
Public health, birth and death-rates	47	234
Markets	47	235
Municipal Magistrate's Court	47	236
Education	47	237
Hackney Carriage Department	47	238
CALCUTTA IMPROVEMENT TRUST—		
Schemes considered by the Board	48	239
Schemes sanctioned by Government	48	240
Projected Public Streets	48	241
Public Squares	48	242
Finance	48	243
DISTRICT BOARDS—		
Meetings of District and Local Boards	49	244
Elections	49	245
Powers of District and Local Boards	49	246
Union Committees	49	247
Financial results	50	248
Income—		
Provincial rates	50	249
Receipts under the Cattle Trespass Act	50	250
Education	50	251
Medical	50	252
Ferries	50	253
Grants from Government	51	254
Loans	51	255
Expenditure—		
Administration	51	256
Education	51	257
Special and Technical Schools	51	258
Medical	51	259
Sanitation	52	260
Veterinary charges	52	261
Civil Works	52	262
Water-supply	53	263
Drainage	53	264
Arboriculture	53	265
Railways	53	266
Famine Relief	54	267
Closing Balances	54	268
VOLUNTEERS—		
Total strength	54	269
MARINE—		
Port of Calcutta—		
Pilot Service	54	270
Vessels piloted	54	271
Pilotage receipts	54	272
Casualties to vessels	54	273
Examinations	55	274
Storm warning signals	55	275
Petroleum vapour-testing apparatus	55	276

	Page.	Para.
MARINE—*concld*		
Port of Chittagong—		
Arrival and departure of vessels	55	277
Casualties to vessels	55	278
Examinations	55	279
Shipping Offices, Calcutta and Kidderpore—		
Finance	55	280
Seamen shipped and discharged	55	281
Repatriation of distressed seamen	55	282
Chittagong Shipping Office—		
Finance	55	283
Seamen shipped and discharged	55	284
Health of the Port of Calcutta—		
Inspection of vessels	55	285
Health of seamen	56	286
Infectious diseases	56	287
Health of the Port of Chittagong—		
Infectious diseases	56	288
Inspections	56	289
Agency for Government Consignment—		
Finance	56	290
Tonnage handled	56	291
Bengal Smoke-Nuisances Commission—		
Inspections and observations	56	292
Amendment of the Bengal Smoke-nuisances Act, 1905	56	293
Prosecutions under the Act	57	294
Stoker's Certificates	57	295
Calcutta Port Trust—		
Income and expenditure	57	296
Capital expenditure	57	297
Capital debt	57	298
Night navigation	57	299
Financial result	57	300
Howrah Bridge—		
Receipts and charges	58	301
Proposals for a new bridge	58	302
Chittagong Port Trust—		
Finance	58	303
Capital expenditure	58	304
Assets and liabilities	58	305
Arrival of vessels	58	306
Value of trade	58	307
Dredgers for the Port of Chittagong	58	308
Bengal Steam-boiler Commission—		
Inspection of boilers	58	309
Rules regulating pension and leave of Boiler Inspectors	59	310
War section—		
War	59	311

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

AGRICULTURE—		
Administration	60	312
Agricultural education	60	313
Research and experiment	60	314
Sericulture	60	315
Fisheries	61	316
Agricultural Associations	61	317
Miscellaneous	61	318
Jute forecasts	61	319
WEATHER AND CROPS—		
Character of the season	61	320
Bhadoi crops (excepting jute)	62	321
Jute	62	322
Winter rice	63	323
Sugarcane	63	324
Rabi crops	63	325
Cotton	63	326
Area under cultivation	63	327
Prices	63	328

	Page.	Para.
Co-operative Societies—		
Development	64	329
Central Banks	64	330
Provincial Co-operative Bank	64	331
Agricultural Societies	64	332
Non-agricultural Societies	64	333
Horticulture—		
The Royal Botanic Garden, General	65	334
Plant and seed distribution	65	335
Herbarium and Library	65	336
Publication	65	337
Lloyd Botanic Garden, Darjeeling	65	338
Calcutta Gardens	65	339
Cinchona Plantations and Factory—		
General	65	340
Plantations	65	341
Outturn	65	342
Forests—		
Administration	66	343
Communications and Buildings	66	344
Forest offences	66	345
Protection from fires	66	346
Protection from cattle	66	347
Exploitation	66	348
Mortality caused by wild animals	66	349
General	66	350
Financial results	67	351
Manufactures and Mines—		
Jute	67	352
Cotton	67	353
Tea	67	354
Coal	67	355
Iron ore	67	356
Saltpetre and salt	68	357
Paper	68	358
Silk	68	359
Sugar	68	360
Miscellaneous manufactures in each Division—		
Burdwan	68	361
Presidency	68	362
Dacca	68	363
Chittagong	69	364
Rajshahi	69	365
Working of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (XII of 1911)—		
Number of factories and system of work	69	366
Inspection	69	367
Housing, sanitary arrangements, water-supply, etc.	69	368
General health of operatives	69	369
Wages and general condition	69	370
Employment of women and children	69	371
Accidents	69	372
Fencing of machinery	70	373
Prosecutions	70	374
Fires	70	375
Strikes	70	376
Trade—		
I.—Foreign Sea-borne Trade—		
Foreign Trade } Merchandise }	70	377
Treasure	70	378

	Page.	Para.
Trade—*concld.*		
I.—Foreign Sea-borne Trade—*concld.*		
Imports of Merchandise—		
Principal articles imported into Calcutta	71	379
Cotton Manufactures	71	380
Sugar	71	381
Metals	71	382
Mineral Oils	72	383
Railway Plant and Rolling Stock	72	384
Hardware and Cutlery	72	385
Salt	72	386
Glass and Glassware	72	387
Matches	72	388
Import trade of Calcutta with other countries	72	389
Exports of Merchandise—		
Foreign trade	73	390
Jute and jute manufactures	73	391
Tea	73	392
Cotton	73	393
Indigo	74	394
Coal	74	395
Saltpetre	74	396
Export trade of Calcutta with other countries	74	397
II.—Frontier Trade—		
Frontier trade	74	398
Imports into Bengal	74	399
Exports from Bengal	75	400
III.—Coasting Trade—		
Coasting trade	75	401
IV.—Trade by Railway and River—		
Railway and River-borne trade	75	402
Imports by Railway and River into Bengal	76	403
Exports by Railway and River from Bengal	76	404
Public Works—		
Establishment—		
Appointment of temporary Upper Subordinates by Superintending Engineers	76	405
Formation of the Waterways Sub-division	76	406
Encouragement of the study of Oriental languages	76	407
Selection of officers for the higher appointments in the Public Works Department	77	408
Strength of the Department and allotment of superior posts	77	409
Accounts—		
Expenditure	77	410
Buildings—		
Imperial Works—		
Civil works—Salt	77	411
Post and Telegraph offices	77	412
Surveyor-General's office	77	413
Settlement buildings	77	414
Treasury and Currency building	78	415
Victoria Memorial Gardens	78	416
Provincial Works—		
Revenue and Judicial Courts	78	417
Subdivisional Officer's and Munsifs' residences	78	418
Circuit-house	78	419

	Page.	Para.
BUILDINGS—*concld.*		
Provincial Works—*concld.*		
Excise	78	420
Residences for Local Government	78	421
Secretariat offices	78	422
Residences for Government officials	79	423
Jails	79	424
Police	79	425
Educational	80	426
Hospitals and Dispensaries	81	427
Registration	81	428
Miscellaneous	81	429
Public Works Department Buildings	81	430
Contribution Works	81	431
Archæological Works	81	432
Communications—		
Burdwan, Hooghly	82	433
Burdwan	82	434
Hooghly	82	435
Dinajpur	82	436
Darjeeling	82	437
Jalpaiguri	82	438
Chittagong Hill Tracts	84	439
Chittagong	84	440
Arboriculture—		
Arboriculture	84	441
Miscellaneous Public Improvements—		
Calcutta Maidan	84	442
Hooghly	84	443
Jalpaiguri	84	444
Noakhali	84	445
Contribution Works—		
Darjeeling	84	446
RAILWAYS—		
Administration	84	447
Mileage of Railway Lines opened for traffic	85	448
Lines under construction	85	449
Surveys sanctioned	85	450
Lines sanctioned for construction	86	451
CANALS—IRRIGATION AND NAVIGATION—		
Capital and Revenue Accounts	86	452
Irrigation	87	453
Length of Canals	87	454
Navigation	87	455
Discharge of Rivers	88	456
Classification of Irrigation and Navigation works	89	457

	Page.	Para.
CANALS—IRRIGATION AND NAVIGATION—*concld*		
South-Western Circle—		
Major Irrigation Works—		
Midnapore Canal—Capital outlay	89	458
Floods	89	459
Rainfall	89	460
Irrigation	89	461
Navigation	90	462
Financial results	90	463
Hijili Tidal Canal—		
Hijli Tidal Canal	90	464
Minor Works and Navigation—		
Calcutta and Eastern Canals—		
(*a*) Capital account	90	465
(*b*) Navigation receipts	90	466
Madaripur Bhil Route	90	467
Orissa Coast Canal	91	468
Gaighata and Baxi Khal	91	469
Eden Canal	91	470
Utterbhag Lock	91	471
Improvement of the Bidyadhari River—		
Bidyadhari River	91	472
Investigations	91	473
Floods	91	474
Central Circle—		
Minor Works and Navigation—		
Nadia Rivers	92	475
Bhagirathi River	92	476
Bhairab-Jalangi River	93	477
Mathabhanga River	93	478
Ganges River between Rajmahal and Goalundo	93	479
The entrance to the Bhagirathi River from the Ganges	93	480
Discharge Observations	93	481
Upper Hooghly and its feeder rivers	93	482
Northern Circle—		
Ganges River at Rampur-Boalia	93	483
Eastern Circle—		
Dhaleswari and Buriganga Rivers	93	484
Karnafulli River	93	485
EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE—		
Expenditure	94	486
Length of Embankments	94	487
Floods and breaches	94	488
Surveys	94	489
Works undertaken under the provisions of—		
(*a*) The Bengal Drainage Act, VI of 1880	94	490
(*b*) The Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act, VIII of 1895	94	491
(*c*) The Bengal Embankment Act, II of 1882	94	492

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

	Page.	Para.
A.—GROSS REVENUE—		
Gross Revenue	95	493
B.—IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE—		
Receipts	96	494
Expenditure	97	495
LAND REVENUE	98	
CANAL REVENUE	98	
SOURCES OF REVENUE OTHER THAN LAND—		
Customs—		
Revenue from Customs	98	496
Net Revenue	98	497
Cases under the Sea Customs Act	98	498
Cases under the Merchandise Marks Act	99	499

	Page.	Para.
SOURCES OF REVENUE OTHER THAN LAND—*contd.*		
Salt—		
Administration	99	500
Imports	99	501
Consumption and prices	99	502
Financial results	99	503
Trade in saltpetre	99	504
Excise—		
Excise Reorganisation	99	505
Excise Advisory Committees and Licensing Boards	100	506
Revenue	100	507
Country spirit	100	508
Tari	100	509
Pachwai	100	510
Foreign liquor	100	511

	Page.	Para.
SOURCES OF REVENUE OTHER THAN LAND—*concld.*		
Excise—*concld.*		
Ganja	100	512
Bhang	101	513
Charas	101	514
Opium	101	515
Cocaine	101	516
Excise offences	101	517
Stamps—		
Revenue	101	518
Judicial stamps	102	519
Non-judicial stamps	102	520
Sale of stamps	102	521
Deficient duty	102	522
Prosecutions under the Stamp Act	102	523
Working of section 19H of the Court-fees Act	102	524
Income-tax—		
Financial results	102	525
Collection	102	526
Assessments	102	527
Incidence of tax	102	528
FOREST REVENUE	103	
C.—REVENUE AND FINANCE OTHER THAN IMPERIAL—		
Provincial Finance—		
Receipts and Expenditure	103	529
Receipts	103	530
Expenditure	104	531
LOCAL FUNDS—		
Balances	105	532
Grants	106	533
ROAD AND PUBLIC WORKS CESSES—		
Rate	106	534
Demand and collection	106	535
Working of the certificate procedure	107	536
Valuation and revaluation	107	537
MUNICIPAL REVENUE	107	

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

	Page.	Para.
VITAL STATISTICS—		
General results	108	538
Birth-rate	108	539
Death-rate	108	540
Verification of vital statistics	108	541
Fever	109	542
Malaria	109	543
Cholera	109	544
Plague	109	545
Dysentery and diarrhœa	109	546
EMIGRATION—		
Colonial Emigration—		
Effect of the War (chief events)	109	547
Emigration Agencies and despatch of emigrants	109	548
Recruitment of emigrants	110	549
Sanitary arrangements in the depôts	110	550
Returned emigrants and their savings	110	551
Disposal of estates of deceased emigrants	110	552
Financial	110	553
Inland Emigration—		
Administrative measures	110	554
Recruitment and recruiting agencies	111	555
Measures taken to prevent unlawful recruitment	111	556
Number of emigrants embarked at Goalundo	111	557
Places of accommodation and rest-houses	111	558
Repatriation	111	559
MEDICAL RELIEF—		
Calcutta Medical Institutions—		
General	111	560
Nursing arrangements	112	561
Diseases treated	112	562
Finance	112	563
District Hospitals and Dispensaries—		
Number of institutions	112	564
Number of patients	112	565
Diseases treated	112	566
Finance	112	567
EDEN SANITARIUM, DARJEELING—		
Admission	113	568
Finance	113	569
LUNATIC ASYLUMS—		
Admission, Discharge, Population and Accommodation	113	570
Health of Lunatics	113	571
SANITATION—		
Sanitary Board	114	572
Sanitary Works	114	573
Sanitary Improvements	114	574
VACCINATION—		
Vaccination	114	575
Small-pox	114	576
THE POISONS ACT—		
Working of the Poisons Act	115	577

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

	Page.	Para.
GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION	{ see pp. 284—273 of Part II of the Report for 1911-12.	
EDUCATION—		
Financial	116	578
Administrative Staff	116	579
Collegiate Education	116	580
Secondary Education	116	581
EDUCATION—*concld.*		
Primary Education	117	582
Training of Teachers	117	583
Education of Indian girls and women	118	584
Education of Europeans	118	585
Education of Muhammadans	119	586
Education of Special Classes	119	587
Hostels	119	588
Physical training	119	589
Discipline	120	590

	Page.	Para.
LITERATURE AND THE PRESS—		
Bengal Library and working of Act XXV of 1867	120	591
Literary publications	120	592
The Press and the working of the Indian Press Act	120	593
Topics discussed in the Press	121	594
LITERARY SOCIETIES	*See* pp. 278, 279 of Part II of the Report for 1911-12.	
ARTS AND SCIENCES—		
Government School of Art, Calcutta	121	595
Government Art Gallery, Calcutta	121	596
ARTS AND SCIENCES—*concld.*		
Other Schools of Art	121	597
Music Schools	121	598
Civil Engineering College, Sibpur	121	599
Dacca School of Engineering	122	600
Mining instruction in the coal-fields	122	601
Pl aders' Survey Examination	122	602
Survey Education	122	603
Joint Technical Examination Board	122	604
City and Guilds of London Institute, Technological Examinations	122	605
Government Weaving Institute, Serampore, and outlying centres	122	606
Schools for Juvenile Offenders	122	607
Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta	123	608
"B" Classes	123	609

CHAPTER VIII.—ARCHÆOLOGY.

Establishment	124	610
Monuments and Antiquities	124	611
Working of the Treasure Trove Act, VI of 1878	124	612

CHAPTER IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION	*See* p. 282 of Part II of the Report for 1911-12.	
ECCLESIASTICAL—		
Establishment	125	613
CHEMICAL EXAMINER'S DEPARTMENT—		
General	125	614
Serology	125	615
Total of cases	125	616
Medico-legal cases	125	617
VETERINARY DEPARTMENT—		
Bengal Veterinary College	125	618
College Hospital	126	619
Glanders and Farcy Act	126	620
Raymond Research Laboratory	126	621
Civil Veterinary Department	126	622
Dispensaries	126	623
Breeding of Cattle	126	624
Staff	126	625
ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN, CALCUTTA—		
Finance and Statistics	127	626
THE WAR—		
War	127	627

MAP.

MAP OF BENGAL.

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1915-16.

CHAPTER I—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

For—

PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY, AREA, CLIMATE AND CHIEF STAPLES.
HISTORICAL SUMMARY.
FORM OF ADMINISTRATION.
CHARACTER OF LAND TENURES; SYSTEM OF SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS.
CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY.
DETAILS OF THE LAST CENSUS, TRIBES AND LANGUAGES.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1911-12, PART II PAGES 1—134.

Changes in the Administration.

Bengal Secretariat.

In order to deal with the increased work on account of the war and the political situation in the Presidency, a temporary post of Additional Secretary to Government in the Political Department was created in December 1915, for a period of six months. Sanction has since been obtained to the continuance of the appointment, till the end of the war.

A temporary post of Additional Under-Secretary to Government in the Political Department has also been created for a period not exceeding two years.

Sanction was received in the course of the year to the permanent retention of the fourth Secretaryship and Under-Secretaryship to Government, which were originally created on a temporary basis in 1913.

Judicial.

2. Four new posts of District and Sessions Judges were created to provide for additional Judgeships in the following districts, viz., Jessore and Khulna (jointly), Burdwan and Midnapore (jointly), Mymensingh and Faridpur, in order to meet the needs of the judicial administration of those districts.

Police.

3. A new police range comprising the six districts in the Burdwan Division was constituted with effect from the 1st September 1915, with a Deputy Inspector-General in charge.

Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

COOCH BEHAR.

[Annual Administration Report of the Cooch Behar State for the year 1915-16.]

(Area, 1,307 square miles; chief produce—rice, jute and tobacco; population, 592,952; military force, 200 men and 4 guns; annual revenue, Rs. 30,68,415; Ruling Chief—Maharaja Jitendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur; family: Tibetan or Dravidian origin; residence, Cooch Behar.)

Birth of a son and heir.

4. A son and heir was born to His Highness on the 15th December 1915.

War.

5. During the year His Highness contributed Rs. 10,000 to the Bengal Ambulance Corps.

Council.

6. Owing to the absence on leave of Mr. E. W. Collin, Superintendent of the State and Vice-President of the State Council, Mr. Narendra Nath Sen, Dewan of the State and Member of the State Council, was appointed to act as Vice-President of the State Council. On the Executive side 29 meetings were held against 20 of the previous year; at 28 of these the Maharaja presided. On the Judicial side the Council held 31 meetings against 19 of the previous year. No meeting of the Legislative Council was held during the year under report.

State Railways.

7. The gross earnings of the Cooch Behar State Railway amounts to Rs. 2,63,494, while the working expenses were Rs. 1,22,709. The net earnings were 6·19 on the capital outlay against 6·28 of the previous year.

Finance.

8. The total revenue of the State amounted to Rs. 30,68,415 against Rs. 26,29,182 of the previous year, while the total expenditure amounted to Rs. 28,80,790 against Rs. 27,16,929. The closing balance inclusive of Government money and deposits was Rs. 13,17,956.

Crops and condition of the people.

9. There were heavy rains in the beginning of the year and considerable damage was thereby done to standing crops. The winter crops were benefited by timely and sufficient rain from July to October and yielded a good harvest, with the result that the price of common rice fell from Rs. 7-8 to Rs. 4.

Criminal Justice.

10. The total number of cases reported during the year was 2,498 against 2,692 of the preceding year, showing a decrease of 194. The percentage of conviction to total number of persons tried was 67·07 against 68·35 of the previous year. The number of prisoners admitted into the jail during the year was 304 as compared with 268 in the previous year.

Education.

11. The Subdivisional High English Schools maintained their high level of efficiency. The total number of pupils attending such schools rose from 819 to 866 and the average daily attendance from 583 to 633. The total number of recognised Primary Schools was 318 against 330 of the previous year. The number of Muhammadan boys attending various schools was over 4,000. The Victoria College continued to make satisfactory progress.

Public health.

12. The general health of the State suffered owing to the unusual prevalence of malaria and there was a considerable increase in the number of reported cases of cholera and small-pox.

HILL TIPPERA.

[Administration Report of Hill Tippera State for the year 1915-16.]

(*Area, 4,086, square miles; population, 2,29,613; revenue from the State, Rs. 10,85,894; revenue from Zamindari in British territory, 7, 43,826; military force, 224, men; chief products, rice and cotton; Present Raja—Birendra Kishore Deb Barman Manikya, aged 35 years; family: Indo-Chinese; caste, Kshatriya; has male heir; residence, Agartala.*)

Change in Administration.

13. During the year under report, His Highness the Raja took the administration of the State into his own hands and selected the Manager of the Chakla Roshnabad Estate, who is a member of the Bengal Provincial Civil Service, to assist him as Chief Dewan. Several reforms have been inaugurated which, it is hoped, did materially improve the administration and develop the resources of the State.

War.

14. His Highness paid Rs. 3,600 to the British Ambulance Committee through the Duke of Portland for the maintenance of a car in France for a year.

Political Agent.

15. The Magistrate of Tippera continued to hold charge of the Agency till the 23rd July 1915, when Mr. J. Bartley, I.C.S., took charge of the office.

Revenue and Finance.

16. The total revenue of the State amounted to Rs. 10,85,894 against Rs. 10,35,456 of the previous year and Rs. 10,60,444, the average of the preceding five years. The gross receipts of the State and the attached zamindaries amounted to Rs. 18,34,720, and with refunds and deposits the total amount was Rs. 24,51,891. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 18,43,327. As regards outstanding liabilities, Rs. 1,75,000 were due at the close of the year to the Bank of Bengal, as compared with Rs. 2,50,000 at the close of the previous year.

Protection.

17. The total number of offences reported to the Police was 994 against 906 in the preceding year. The number of persons arrested was 512, of

whom 452 were sent up for trial; of these 298 were convicted and 102 persons were awaiting trial at the close of the year. The percentage of stolen property recovered was 31·2 against 34·63 of the preceding year, while the number of original criminal cases instituted increased.

18. The rainfall during the year was above the normal, being 119·75 inches against 90·58 inches of the preceding year, and 104·14 inches, the average of the preceding five years. Floods occurred in many parts of the territory. Considerable damage was done to property, and some lives were lost. Cultivation both in the hills and in the plains suffered, and, for a time, food grains had to be imported into the State from outside. The public health was generally fair, but the heavy floods caused outbreaks of cholera in various parts of the State. Weather and Crops.

Condition of the People.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1915-16.]

19. With the rise in the price of jute there was some improvement in the condition of the cultivating classes except in certain parts of the Province, where distress prevailed on account of drought or floods, notably in the districts of Bankura, Tippera, Mymensingh and Noakhali. The failure of crops was most serious in the district of Bankura, where the distress was acute during the latter part of the year. The agricultural classes.

20. Prices of food remained high, but this did not materially affect the labouring classes whose wages rose in proportion. Wages and salaries.

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Realization of the Revenue.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1915-16.]

Total collections.

21. The total number of estates paying land revenue was 97,472, as against 97,011 in the previous year. Of these, 91,850 were permanently-settled estates, 3,348 temporarily-settled estates and 2,274 estates held direct by Government. The total current demand of the year amounted to Rs. 2,76,02,163, showing an increase of Rs. 2,34,632 as compared with the demand of the previous year. The increase was due mostly to new settlements, resettlements and progressive increase of demands in temporarily-settled and Government estates. The current demand, together with the arrear of Rs. 20,42,329 brought the total realizable demand of the year to Rs. 2,96,44,492, out of which the collections amounted to Rs. 2,78,14,846, being 93·82 per cent. of the total and 100·97 per cent. of the current demand, as against 93·04 and 97·75 per cent., respectively, in the previous year. The total remissions granted amounted to Rs. 73,727, and the major portion of this was allowed, as usual, in estates held direct by Government.

Collections in (a) Permanently-settled estates.

22. The total demand of the permanently-settled estates amounted to Rs. 2,17,79,794 (Rs. 2,15,79,972 current and Rs. 1,99,822 arrear), of which Rs. 2,15,85,884 or 99·10 per cent. was collected. The current collections reached 99 per cent. of the current demand in all districts except Bakarganj (94·71) and Chittagong (97·94). The low percentage in Bakarganj was chiefly due to short payments made in respect of a Ward's Estate on account of its bad financial condition, and in Chittagong to the short earnings of the agriculturists of the district.

(b) Temporarily-settled estates.

23. Temporarily-settled estates comprise three sub-classes—(1) private estates settled with proprietors, (2) private estates leased to farmers, and (3) Government estates leased to farmers. The total collections from all these three classes of estates amounted to Rs 17,08,422, representing 100·48 per cent. of the current demand of Rs. 17,00,097 against 95·13 per cent. in the previous year, and Rs. 3,56,231 remained unrealized at the close of the year. The current collections fell short of the prescribed standard in three districts only. In the 24-Parganas the low percentage (90·17) was due to default in several Sundarbans grants, and in Tippera (85·81) to the scarcity prevailing in the district. In Bakarganj (83·53) a considerable amount could not be credited to land revenue owing to the pendency of a civil suit against Government.

(c) Estates held direct by Government.

24. The estates held direct by Government comprise two sub-classes —(1) estates belonging to private proprietors but managed by Government, and (2) those owned by Government as proprietor. The total demand of these estates amounted to Rs. 57,98,477 (current Rs. 43,22,094 and arrear Rs. 14,76,383), of which Rs. 45,20,540 (current Rs. 34,58,173 and arrear Rs. 10,62,367) or 77·96 per cent. was collected, Rs. 71,861 remitted and Rs. 12,06,076 left unrealized at the close of the year. Both arrear and current collections showed better results, being 71·95 and 80·01 per cent. of the demands, against 57·24 and 74·43 per cent., respectively, in the preceding year. In Midnapore, although the total collections represented 122·4 per cent. of the current demand during the year, the balance outstanding amounted to Rs. 4,07,469. The tenants who suffered from the floods of 1913 and had bad harvests in the two following years, could not recover their financial condition so as to be able to pay up the whole of the current and arrear demands of the year.

Miscellaneous land revenue.

25. The total collections amounted to Rs. 21,44,234 against Rs. 15,24,187 in the previous year. There was marked increase in the receipts under the

two heads "Sale of Government lands" and "Recovery of survey and settlement charges." The collections under "Other receipts" included Rs. 57,430 on account of *Pulbandi* contribution realized from the Burdwan Estate.

Changes in land-revenue demand of temporarily-settled estates and estates under direct management.

26. There was a net increase of 33,400 acres in the area of land settled and of Rs. 2,39,049 in revenue.

Redemption of land revenue.

27. The total number of petty estates and holdings, the land revenue of which was redeemed during the year, was 241, against 325 in the preceding year. These were mostly permanently-settled holdings in the Government estates of Calcutta and its suburbs. The land revenue redeemed amounted to Rs. 441 and the total price realized was Rs. 12,164. There was no case of redemption under section 11 of the old Partition Act of 1876.

Remittance of land revenue and rent by money-orders.

28. The number of special money orders issued during the year for remittance of land revenue and cesses decreased from 297,491 to 246,782, while the amount covered by these money-orders increased from Rs. 18,04,024 to 19,79,301. The fall in the number of orders, which was shared by almost all the districts, was due to the introduction of a combined form of money-order for remittance of both land revenue and cesses. The average value of an order increased to Rs. 8·02 from 6·06 in the preceding year. The system of payment of rent by money-order continued in force throughout the Presidency except in the district of Darjeeling and the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The number of money-orders issued showed an increase from 61,081 to 62,697, and the aggregate amount remitted from Rs. 10,08,175 to 10,73,615. There was a decrease from 11,334 to 10,615 in the number of money-orders refused with a corresponding decrease in the percentage of refusals, which in 1915-16 was 16·9 as against 18·5 in the previous year.

Coercive measures. (a) Sale Laws.

29. The number of defaults and the number of sales were 12,498 and 1,087, respectively, as against 13,717 and 861 during the preceding year. The price realized by sale was 2·9 times the Government revenue against 5·7 times in 1914-15. One hundred and seventy tenures and holdings under the direct management of Government were sold under the provisions of Act XI of 1859. Of these, 26 were purchased on behalf of Government for Re. 1 each. One hundred and forty-one appeals were filed before the Commissioners against sales. In 32 cases sales were annulled by the Commissioner under section 2 of Bengal Act VII of 1868 and in 24 cases by the Board under section 26 of Act XI of 1859.

(b) Certificate procedure.

30. The number of certificates (exclusive of those for cesses which have been dealt with in Chapter V) filed during the year was 45,825, as against 54,975 (revised figures) of the previous year. The percentage of certificate cases disposed of to the total number for disposal fell from 68·1 (revised figures) to 57·6. The number of cases pending at the close of the year was 30,272, of which 4,507 were pending for more than six months. In the majority of cases payments were made on the mere issue of notices or on attachment of property, and recourse to actual sale was necessary only in 1,844 cases out of 41,169 cases disposed of.

Realization of Government and other demands by imprisonment.

31. Out of 14 persons committed to civil jails during the year in the enforcement of certificates, 7 were imprisoned for non-payment of Government demands and the rest for withholding sums due to District Boards and Wards' Estates, etc.

Processes.

32. The total number of processes served was 889,359 against 895,993, and the process fees realized amounted to Rs. 3,48,629 against Rs. 3,55,320 in the preceding year. The total cost of service, including the pay of the supervising establishment debitable to land revenue, was Rs. 2,36,022 against Rs. 2,29,756 in the previous year. In the districts of Nadia, Jessore, Khulna, Bogra and Pabna the cost of process-serving establishment exceeded the receipts from fees. The system of fines and rewards for bad and good work generally worked well. The system of serving processes by *dafadars* through President Panchayats was in force in the districts of Hooghly, Dacca and Tippera, in the Sadar and Kalna Subdivisions of the district of Burdwan, in the Sadar Subdivision of the district of Birbhum, in the Sadar, Barasat and Barrackpore Subdivisions of the district of the 24-Parganas, in the Ranaghat,

Chuadanga and Meherpur Subdivisions of the district of Nadia, in the Lalbagh Subdivision of the district of Murshidabad, in the Magura Subdivision of the district of Jessore and in the Bagerhat and Satkhira Subdivisions of the district of Khulna and also in Kotwali and Gangchara thanas in the district of Rangpur during the year. The system is reported to have been generally satisfactory.

OTHER REVENUE WORK.

Land Registration.

33. The number of applications for registration of succession to proprietary interests in land by purchase, inheritance, gift or otherwise was 35,176 of which 33,445 were granted before the close of the year. The number of old interests removed and new interests recorded were 35,573 and 42,947. respectively. The total number of recorded interests at the close of the year was 951,581 as against 944,207 at its beginning. The number of undisposed of cases at the end of the year was 10,744, of which 141 only, as against 246 of the previous year, were pending for more than six months. The largest number of long pending cases at the close of the year were 83 in Hooghly, 19 in Mymensingh and 29 in Chittagong.

Partition.

34. There were 275 cases pending at the close of the preceding year and 46 cases were instituted during the year under report. Out of the total of 321 cases for disposal, 48 cases, including 13 struck off for various reasons, were disposed of and 273 cases remained pending at the end of the year. Special officers were employed exclusively on partition work in the districts of Khulna, Mymensingh, Rajshahi and Dinajpur. Jessore, Dacca and Mymensingh are the only districts in the Presidency in which there are Estates Partition Funds. The incidence of cost per acre of area partitioned in Dacca was 6 annas against 5 annas 9 pies in the previous year. In the other two districts no partition was completed during the year.

Land acquisition.

35. Proceedings for the acquisition. on behalf of Government and local bodies and companies, of land covering an area of 2,560 acres were confirmed during the year at a total cost of Rs. 28,16,078 against 5,386 acres at a cost of Rs. 50,32,659 in the preceding year. Of the total expenditure incurred a sum of Rs. 19,40,264 was for acquisition of lands for Government, including State Railways and Companies' Railways provided with land free of cost, and Rs. 8,75,814 for all other purposes, viz., for District Boards, Municipalities, Calcutta Improvement Trust and Railway and other Companies. The average cost per acre of the lands for which acquisition proceedings were confirmed was Rs. 1,100 against Rs. 934 in the preceding year. The increase in the average cost was chiefly due to the fact that the proceedings for the acquisition of more expensive land in the town of Calcutta and in the districts of Hooghly, Nadia, Chittagong and Tippera were confirmed during the year.

Loans.—(a) Land Improvement Loans Act.

36. The amount of loans under the Land Improvement Loans Act outstanding at the beginning of the year was Rs. 1,02,549 and loans amounting to Rs. 1,65,762 were advanced during the year under report, of which Rs. 1,54,129 was advanced in Bankura district, where scarcity prevailed. Of Rs. 2,68,311, the total outstanding principal, Rs. 46,665 was repayable during the year. Out of this, Rs. 40,504 was realized, including Rs. 1,759 collected in advance, while Rs. 559 was remitted. The balance outstanding at the close of the year was Rs. 2,27,248 (including Rs. 460 under suspension), of which Rs. 6,951 was overdue. Of Rs. 8,492 due on account of interest, current and arrear, the collections during the year amounted to Rs. 7,191, of which Rs. 151 was paid in advance and excess, while Rs. 385 was remitted and a balance of Rs. 917 (excluding Rs. 150 under suspension) was left unrealized at the close of the year.

(b) Agriculturists' Loans Act.

37. The amount advanced during the year under the Agriculturists' Loans Act was Rs. 15,78,340. Large sums were issued in the districts of Bankura (Rs. 2,78,982), Tippera (Rs. 9,59,148) and Mymensingh (Rs. 1,19,323) —the three districts in which there were more or less widespread distress due to drought or flood. The outstanding balance of the previous year was Rs. 5,21,927, making the aggregate amount outstanding Rs. 21,00,267, of which Rs. 4,78,112 was recoverable within the year. The total collections amounted to Rs. 2,50,961, including Rs. 5,524 paid in advance and excess, and Rs. 586

was remitted. The balance recoverable in future years was Rs. 18,48,974 (including Rs. 4,310 under suspension), of which Rs. 2,27,779 was overdue at the end of the year. The amounts overdue in the districts of Midnapore, Bankura, Dacca, Bakarganj and Tippera are heavy. Of Rs. 58,597 due on account of interest, current and arrear, Rs. 28,566 was collected (including Rs. 277 paid in advance and excess). Rs. 245 was remitted and Rs. 481 suspended, leaving a balance of Rs. 29,582 overdue at the end of the year.

Surveys.

[Report of the Survey Department, Bengal, for the year ending 30th September 1915].

Outturn of the year.

38. Traverse Survey was continued in the districts of Rajshahi and Midnapore, was begun in Tippera, Jessore and Bankura and was completed in Noakhali and in the diara blocks of Mymensingh. The outturn of district surveys amounted to 4,074 square miles against 3,630 square miles in the previous year. An area of about 500 square miles in the main Ganges diara between Rajshahi and Faridpur was traversed for the Settlement Department. The Survey Department was also engaged in carrying out much work of a miscellaneous character including a considerable programme in Calcutta and its suburbs for the Improvement Trust.

Land Records and Settlements.

[Annual Report of the Director of Land Records for the year ending 30th September 1915].

General.

39. Survey and Settlement operations under the supervision of the Director of Land Records were in progress in 19 districts. The settled area of the Province in which the Bengal Tenancy Act is in force is 63,893 square miles. A record-of-rights prepared under Chapter X of that Act has been finally published in respect of 17,027 square miles.

Land Revenue Settlements.

40 The Settlement of Land Revenue in the district of Dacca resulted in an increase of revenue by 102 per cent., mostly due to increase of area on extension of cultivation. A considerable amount of diara resumption and resettlement of land revenue was accomplished in the course of Survey and Settlement operations both major and minor, mostly in Dacca, Bakarganj, Faridpur and Noakhali.

Other Settlements.

41. Major operations were continued in the districts of Jalpaiguri, Faridpur, Dacca, Mymensingh, Rajshahi and Midnapore and were begun in the districts of Tippera and Noakhali

Jalpaiguri and Faridpur.

42. The Jalpaiguri and Faridpur Settlements were completed and the operations were closed by the end of February 1916.

Dacca.

43. In Dacca, the programme for the year comprised the completion of attestation, objections and statistics for the whole operations. The major portion of the programme was successfully completed and presented fewer difficulties than had ordinarily fallen to the lot of this Settlement.

Mymensingh.

44. In Mymensingh the initial stages of cadastral survey, record-writing and preliminary office work have been completed for the whole district. *Bujharat* (field to field verification of map and record) fell slightly behind the programme owing to the unexpected number of plots found in the Kathiadi thana. Attestation and objections were also slightly in arrears on account of the complexity of the work and maps and case-work owing to the curtailment of the budget.

Midnapore.

45. The programme for Midnapore consisting of 968 square miles of cadastral survey and preliminary record-writing, 855 square miles of attestation and 994 square miles of *janch* (office work and check) and 1,287 square miles printing was carried through. The revision settlement in the temporarily-settled estates of Potashpur was much more expensive than was expected during attestation.

Rajshahi.

46. The year's programme in Rajshahi consisted of 940 square miles of cadastral survey and initial record-writing and *bujharat* 870 square miles of attestation, 840 square miles of objections and 890 square miles of mapping

and printing. It was nearly completed except for field *bujharat* which was in arrears owing to the large number of plots and interests encountered.

Tippera and Noakhali.

47. In Tippera and Noakhali where operations began during the year, the programme for the year was completed in all branches.

Minor Settlements.

48. Minor Settlement operations in respect of scattered estates were in progress in 13 districts. In Burdwan operations were in progress in 22 zamindari estates and on the Grand Trunk Road. The main items left pending at the end of the year were case-work and the completion of the proceedings on the Grand Trunk Road. The only area dealt with in Bankura was a small *patni* estate of about 4 square miles. Survey and *Khanapuri* were finished and some progress was made in attestation. In Hooghly the whole of the programme was carried through except for a small arrear in recovery. Eight scattered estates with a total estimated area of 16·42 square miles were under settlement in the 24-Parganas. In Nadia the programme comprised the settlement under the Regulations in 16 Government and temporarily-settled estates and the preparation of a record-of-rights under the Bengal Tenancy Act in two permanently-settled estates. The Regulation settlements were all completed excepting two in which the rent roll was being prepared when the year closed and the records in the two Zamindari estates were finally published. In Murshidabad the total area of the estates under settlement was 39 square miles. The Survey and *Khanapuri* programme of 15·7 square miles was carried out in full, but *bujharat* and subsequent stages fell into arrears. The operations in the Mokimpore estate in the districts of Jessore and Khulna were nearly completed. The work which remained pending was the consignment of the records and the submission of the final report. In Khulna a new Government estate Boyarsingba was taken up during the year and Traverse and Cadastral Surveys were completed. Proceedings for the revision of land revenue in Bakarganj were going on in 62 Government and temporarily-settled estates including Tushkhali covering an area of about 118 square miles. In the area in respect of which the rent roll was confirmed, the revenue increased from Rs. 40,546 to Rs. 50 370, *i.e.* by 25 per cent. In the *diara* area altogether 833 new estates have been formed with a total area of 40·78 square miles and net revenue of Rs. 56,429. The minor operations in Faridpur comprised proceedings for the revision of land revenue in 38 Government and temporarily-settled private estates which were under different stages of the operations. Where the rent roll has been confirmed the rent roll has increased from Rs. 13,303 to Rs. 17,456, *i.e.* by 31 per cent., mainly on account of increased fertility owing to fluvial action and increase in area. In Noakhali the main work lay in the settlement of rent and revenue in 15 Government estates and temporarily-settled private estates with a total area of 77 square miles and the programme was practically carried through. The total increase of revenue in the 7 estates in which the rent rolls have been confirmed is only Rs. 868 on Rs 3,998.

Boundary marks.

49. Out of a total of 28,441 marks, 15,967, *i.e.*, about 60 per cent. were inspected. Action was taken to repair or restore 712 marks. A very large number of marks were found to be missing in the Wards' estates in Midnapore, but all of them have been restored. Good action was taken also in Khulna.

Waste Lands.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1915-16.]

Waste Lands.

50. The rules for the grant of waste land leases to large capitalists in the 24-Parganas and Khulna portions of the Sundarbans continue to be under suspension. On the suggestion of the Hon'ble Mr. C. J. Stevenson-Moore, who visited the Sundarbans with a view to determine the best method of reclaiming the waste lands, raiyatwari settlement is being made in the resumed lot Mansadwip, 2nd portion, in the Saugor Island, by an officer deputed for the purpose, and the reclamation of the lot Shikarpur, 2nd portion, in that island has been undertaken with a view to making the lot fit for raiyatwari settlement. It is proposed to take up other lots for such settlement later on.

The number of leases granted under the Large Capitalists' Rules of 1879 and the rules of 1853 remained the same as before, viz., 188 and 93 in the 24-Parganas and 22 and 36 in the Khulna Sundarbans, respectively. The revenue payable in respect of them during the year was Rs. 1,02,641, Rs. 79,501, Rs. 11,686 and Rs. 54,076, which will eventually rise to Rs. 2,35,111, Rs. 80,053, Rs. 22,206 and Rs. 55,769, respectively. The number of leases in Saugor Island was 6 as in the previous year, and the revenue demand during the year under report was Rs. 2,863, which will eventually rise to Rs. 11,931. As in the previous year *parwanas* for possession were issued in Jalpaiguri in respect of 32 waste land *jotes* settled during the year. Leases in proper form will be issued when the form for arable waste land leases which is under consideration is finally approved.

Government Estates.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1915-16.]

51. There were altogether 2,274 estates under direct management, including those of private individuals managed by Government, and the total current demand payable by these estates amounted to Rs. 41,88,602. The percentage of cost of management on the current demand was 6·96. The condition of the tenants in the khas mahals was on the whole fairly satisfactory, but the tenants in the Contai Khas Mahals in Midnapore have not yet recovered from the effects of the flood of 1913. In Birbhum and in some parts of Bankura and Nadia the raiyats had a bad harvest. The excessive and early rainfall affected the harvesting of the crops on low-lying *char* lands in the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh and also damaged the crops in Pabna. There were excellent jute and sugarcane crops in the northern portion of Bakarganj, and the outturn of winter rice was also good in that district. In Tippera the tenants suffered from the fall in the price of jute followed by a sudden and continuous flood resulting in a partial failure of winter rice. Agricultural loans were granted to the tenants, whose crops were destroyed by the flood, and the realization of rents was suspended where necessary. **Number and management**

52. The total expenditure of Rs. 78,002 on miscellaneous and sanitary improvements included Rs. 7,916 spent on tanks and wells, Rs. 43,258 on drainage, irrigation and embankments, Rs. 1,059 on roads and bridges, and the remainder (Rs. 25,769) on planting trees and other miscellaneous works. **Grants for improvements.**

53. The year under report was the ninth year of the colonization scheme. There were 416 new colonists settled on 24,070 bighas of land against 535 colonists on 31,560 bighas of land in the preceding year. The expenditure on the scheme during the year was Rs. 68,387. A sum of Rs. 21,782 was advanced to the colonists as loans and Rs. 43,113 was realized during the year. The rural Co-operative Credit Societies established in the colonization area worked satisfactorily. Five new societies were registered during the year. **Colonization in the Bakarganj Sundarbans.**

54. A total sum of Rs. 3,07,305 was expended on roads and communications in Government estates, the Government grant of 1½ per cent. on collections from these estates allotted for the purpose amounting to Rs. 69,559, and the balance being met from District Boards and other local funds. **Roads.**

55. The total number of schools in Government estates and of pupils in them increased from 2,214 and 73,327 in 1914-15 to 2,293 and 76,570, respectively. The increase, both in the number of schools and of pupils, was marked in the districts of the Dacca Division, where the former rose from 540 to 607 and the latter from 17,067 to 19,007. The total sum spent on education in Government estates aggregated Rs. 55,851, while the Government grant of 1 per cent. on collections from these estates amounted to Rs. 46,373, the excess expenditure being met from local grants. **Education.**

56. Only two petty estates, with an area of less than an acre, in the district of the 24-Parganas, were sold during the year under report for Rs. 1,487, subject to an annual revenue of Rs. 8. **Sale of estates.**

Wards' and Attached Estates.

[Report on the Administration of Wards' and Attached Estates for the year 1915-16.]

Number of estates and payment of Government demands.

57. The total number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards at the beginning of the year was 53. Four new estates were taken charge of, raising the number of estates under management at the close of the year to 57. The total amount of revenue and cesses due to Government, including an arrear demand of Rs. 1,61,840, was Rs. 14,24,968, of which 92·1 per cent. was paid against 88·0 per cent. in the previous year.

Rent and cesses due to superior landlords.

58. The percentage of payment of rent and cesses due to superior landlords remained nearly the same, being 79·6 per cent. of the amount due against 78·3 in the previous year, leaving a balance of Rs. 1,28,985 out of a total demand of Rs. 6,32,629. The heaviest balances were due, as in the preceding year, from the Bawali estate in the district of the 24-Parganas, the Bhawal estate in the district of Dacca and the Karatiya estate in the district of Mymensingh. The balances are chiefly due to disputes with co-sharers and other legal difficulties.

Collection of rent and cesses.

59. The demand for rent and cesses due to the estates under management during the year was Rs. 1,00,40,201 including an arrear demand of Rs. 59,20,182. Out of this Rs. 38,96,563 or 38·8 per cent. was collected against 37·3 per cent. in the previous year. The percentage of collections on current demand was 94·5 against 84·7 in the preceding year. The standard of 100 per cent. collections on current demand was exceeded in the Burdwan, Presidency and Rajshahi Divisions, the highest percentage (114·2) being in the Burdwan Division. The lowest percentage 68·1 was in the Chittagong Division, and was due to the very poor collection in the portion of the Kasimbazar estate in the district of Tippera, which suffered severe distress on account of floods. The estate had to expend Rs. 60,000 on gratuitous relief and relief works among its tenants.

Balances of rent and cesses due to estates.

60. The outstanding balances of rent and cesses due to all estates aggregated Rs. 59,77,335 representing 145·8 per cent. on the current demand and 59·5 per cent. on the total demand against 135·6 per cent. and 59·8 per cent., respectively, in the previous year. The balances exceeded the current demand in all the divisions, except the Burdwan and the Rajshahi Divisions. As regards the estates in which the balances exceeded 25 per cent. of the current demand, the percentage of total balance on the current demand was 97·5 in the Burdwan, 123·1 in the Presidency, 206·2 in the Dacca, 121·6 in the Chittagong and 80·4 in the Rajshahi Divisions. These figures show a large increase in the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions. The large balance in the Tagore estate includes a considerable amount of irrecoverable demands in respect of which no remission could be allowed in view of the approaching release of the estate consequent on the foreclosure suit brought by the mortgagees having been decreed. The demand of the estate of the Nawab family of Dacca also includes a large amount of fictitious items which are being gradually written off. It is expected that, as the result of the completion of the settlement operations in the district of Dacca, the balance of the Bhawal estate will be considerably reduced. The large increase of about Rs. 2,50,000 in the Tippera portion of the Kasimbazar estate was due to the partial suspension of collection owing to severe distress.

Debts of estates.

61. With a few exceptions, all the estates in the Presidency are more or less heavily encumbered. The total of the debts of all the estates stood at Rs. 82,95,049 after payment of Rs. 3,56,527 during the year, the current rent and cess demand of the estates being Rs. 41,20.019. The debt of the Jhargram estate was reduced from Rs 5,32,886 to Rs. 4,74,318. The foreclosure suit instituted against the Tagore estate by the mortgagees has been decreed, and it is likely that the decree will be executed within the current year. Nothing could be contributed towards the reduction of the debt of the Mukharji estate, which stood at Rs. 1.17,000, as about Rs. 12,000 had to be paid on account of arrear revenue and cesses. The outstanding debt of the Bhawal estate was Rs. 18,92,110. Of this the undisputed amount was

Rs. 2,59,293 and the remainder represents claims of one proprietor on another or on the joint estate. A special officer has been appointed to ascertain the total of the debts due by the estate and the separate liabilities of each of the three shares. Only a small sum of Rs. 2,400 could be paid towards the principal of the loan taken from Government by the late Nawab Sir Salimulla Bahadur of Dacca. The debt of the Karatiya estate slightly decreased, but the debts of the Golakpur and Sherpur estates increased to a certain extent by accrual of interest. The debt of the Bhukailash Estate No. 1 was reduced to Rs. 2,37,034 after payment of Rs. 21,737 during the year. The debt of the Kazi estate rose from Rs. 72,041 to Rs. 75,426 mostly by accrual of arrears of interest which could not be paid on account of certain unforeseen expenditure.

62. The percentage of the cost of management on the current rent and cess demand of estates was for the whole Presidency 12·6 against 12·4 in the previous year. The standard of 10 per cent. was exceeded in all the divisions except the Presidency Division. In the portion of the Kasimbazar estate situated in Tippera district, a revised scheme of mufassal tahsil establishment in which the tahsildars are to be paid by commission on collection has been sanctioned as an experimental measure. The question of the further curtailment of expenditure in that estate is receiving careful consideration. **Management charges.**

63. The standards fixed for expenditure on schools and on agricultural and sanitary improvements are 1 and 3 per cent., respectively, of the current rent and cess demand of an estate. There is no standard fixed for expenditure on other works of improvements. The total expenditure for the Presidency under all these heads during the year was Rs. 1,89,062. During the year the Board had under consideration the policy to be followed in carrying out agricultural improvements in Wards' estates and, in consultation with the Director of Agriculture issued revised instructions with a view to attain more effective co-operation between the Department of Agriculture and the officers of the estates. **Improvements.**

64. Miss Cornelia Sorabji, Lady Assistant to the Court of Wards, continued to do useful work in giving the ladies of the zenanas of Wards' estates the benefit of her advice on general matters, and particularly with regard to the health, comfort and education of these ladies, and of minor wards. **Lady Assistant.**

65. The education of the wards received due attention and the results attained were generally satisfactory. In accordance with the scheme for giving minors under the Court of Wards some training in survey and settlement work before the release of their estates one ward and a son of another ward attended the training camp during the field season of 1915-16. **Education of the wards.**

Revenue and Rent-paying classes.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1915-16.]

66. The Bengal Tenancy Act was in force throughout the Presidency except the district of Darjeeling, the Chittagong Hill Tracts and the town of Calcutta. **Bengal Tenancy Act.**

67. There was no dispute of exceptional importance between landlords and tenants, but ill-feeling, generally due to the attempts of landlords to levy illegal exactions, prevailed in several districts, while disputes between rival landlords in the Faridpur district over alluvial accretions led to the harassment of their respective tenants. **Relations between landlords and tenants.**

68. Out of 26 cases in which proceedings were taken for the failure to grant rent receipts as provided in the Bengal Tenancy Act, 24 ended in the imposition of fines and 2 were dismissed. **Rent receipts.**

69. Illegal cesses or *abwabs* are levied in some form or other in addition to stipulated rent throughout the Presidency. Road and Public Works Cesses at more than the usual rate continue to be exacted in most districts. Tenants as a rule submit to these exactions without much demur, in order to avoid friction with their landlords, and no suit under section 75 of the Bengal Tenancy Act was brought to resist these demands. In some of the districts, however, the settlement and revaluation operations are said to have had a good effect in restricting these demands. **Illegal cesses.**

CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.

Legislative Authorities.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1912-13, PART II, PAGES 13, 14.

Course of Legislation.

The Government of India Act, 1915.

70. On the 1st of January, 1916, the Government of India Act, 1915 (5 and 6 George V. Ch. 61), came into force. This Act of Parliament has consolidated the existing law contained in a series of Acts of Parliament, dating from the year 1770, relating to the Government of India. It has, *inter alia*, repealed the provisions of the Indian Council Acts of 1861, 1871, 1892 and 1909, which relate to Council Government in India,—reproducing the provisions of those Acts. No material changes have been made in the existing law, the new Act being purely a consolidating measure.

Acts passed by the Bengal Legislative Council during 1915-16.

71. The following two Acts were passed by the Bengal Legislative Council during the year 1915-16, the first of which became law during that year and the second shortly after the close of that year, namely :—

(*1*) *Bengal Act V of 1915.* [The Bengal Decentralization Act, 1915.]—This Act, which came into force on the 27th October, 1915, was passed in order to give effect to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Decentralization mainly in the matter of the delegation of power from a higher to a lower authority in certain Bengal Regulations and Acts of the Bengal Council where it was considered that such delegation could usefully be made.

No Act was, however, touched which had been in force for less than five years, on the ground that it was considered expedient to amend those enactments only in the working of which considerable experience had been gained.

(*2*) *Bengal Act I of 1916.* [The Bengal Smoke-nuisances (Amendment) Act, 1916.]—The object of this Act, which came into force on the 5th April, 1916, was to remedy certain defects in the Bengal Smoke-nuisances Act, 1905 (Bengal Act III of 1905), which had come to light during the past nine years. The remedial steps taken were as follows :—

(*i*) chimneys and steam-engines used for generating electricity in clubs, hotels and similar institutions were brought within the purview of the Act ;

(*ii*) the partial exemption allowed under the Act to ocean-going steamers in the Port of Calcutta was withdrawn, a clause being, however, added to the effect that the rules to be framed, under the Act, to govern the emission of smoke from vessels, shall be framed "with due regard to the safety of shipping";

(*iii*) power was also taken to deal with the excessive emission of smoke from kilns and furnaces erected before the Bengal Smoke-nuisances Act of 1905 came into force ;

(*iv*) increased powers were taken to deal effectively with the nuisance caused by coke-making in open fires ;

(*v*) power was taken to control the construction of new chimneys and flues ; and

(*vi*) the powers of inspection were increased.

The amending Act also admits of a non-official majority on the Smoke-nuisances Commission.

72. There were no Bills pending before the Bengal Legislative Council at the close of the year 1915-16. Bills pending during 1915-16.

Bengal Police.

[The Report on the Police Administration in the Bengal Presidency for the year 1915. Statistics of British India, Part VI.—Administrative and Judicial.]

73. Sanction was received during the year to the formation of a new Deputy Inspector-General's Range for the Burdwan Division, and much-needed relief was thereby afforded to the Deputy Inspector-General of the Western Bengal Range which had previously included both the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions. The post of the Second Assistant to the Inspector-General was made permanent. The introduction of new schemes was followed by an addition of 89 police officers to the sanctioned strength of the subordinate police force, which now comprises 21,117 men. The number of recruits enlisted during the year was 3,759, showing a satisfactory increase of 313 over the figures of the previous year. The number of vacancies has been reduced from 1,400 to 242 and is now lower than it has been since the formation of the Presidency. The most serious defect in the constitution of the force is still the inadequacy of the reserve, which makes it impossible to give the men a reasonable amount of leave. The demand for unforeseen and temporary duties for which no provision is made in the cadre, is increasing rapidly, and there can be no doubt that the reserve scale fixed by the Police Commission is inadequate. The cost of a full reserve will be very heavy, but it is hoped that it may be found possible to provide funds next year for some increase in the cadre. The most pressing requirements of the force are an increase in its effective strength, either by the reduction of the duties entrusted to it or by additions to its numbers, and the provision of improved housing accommodation for the subordinate police in the mufassal. Until these demands are met, the recent increase in the pay of the subordinate ranks—though the Inspector-General reports that it has been much appreciated—can only be partially successful in attracting recruits of the best class and retaining them in contented service. These matters will receive immediate and practical consideration from Government as soon as the financial situation permits. Administration.

The discipline of the force was on the whole satisfactory. Judicial punishments decreased from 102 to 96. Rewards for good work were earned by 3,707 officers and men. Out of 415 complaints preferred by private persons against the police during the year and dealt with in the Courts, 72 ended in conviction. Seven charges of torture were brought, but none of them were found to be true. The majority of the cases in which convictions were obtained were petty offences committed by constables. Only four superior officers were convicted, an Inspector for extortion, a Sub-Inspector for bribery, and two Sub-Inspectors for petty offences. The small number of cases in which superior officers were implicated affords most gratifying testimony to the improvement which has been effected in this branch of the force and of the success of the efforts made to recruit men of good position and character for the investigating staff. Seventeen civil suits instituted against the police were disposed of during the year. Only one case was decreed, 5 were withdrawn and 11 dismissed.

74. A sum of nearly Rs. 12,00,000 was spent on police buildings during the year, of which over Rs. 8,00,000 were devoted to the construction of new buildings and the balance to repairs of existing buildings. Seventeen new police-stations were opened during the year. Building projects which will cost nearly Rs. 70,00,000 have been administratively approved, and a sum at least as large again will be required for the proper housing of the police force in the mufassal and the reduction of unwieldy police-station jurisdictions to areas of manageable size. Much also remains to be done for the equipment of the force, and it is to be regretted that the economy in public expenditure which is at the present time an imperative imperial necessity should have delayed the completion of the large programme of reforms and reorganization which will eventually assist the police force so materially in the execution of their onerous duties. Buildings.

Military Police.

75. The Dacca Military Police Battalion under Captain Macpherson, continues to maintain its high reputation. Its military efficiency earned the highest commendation from the General Officer Commanding Presidency Brigade. The prestige and keenness of the corps have been greatly enhanced by the acceptance of a half company for service in the field with one of the expeditionary forces. The battalion has taken over the outstations at Hooghly and Buxa. and the Hindustani Military Police Company formerly employed at Hooghly has been disbanded.

River Police.

76. The development of the river police scheme has been retarded by want of funds and by the impossibility of arranging for any large additions to the fleet on account of the war. Three steam-launches and two motor-boats were made over to the Military Department. The force was mobilised in August 1915 for special duty under the General Officer Commanding, Presidency Brigade. The training and experience gained were invaluable, and the force acquitted itself creditably. The protection afforded by the river police to the traffic on the great rivers of this Presidency is much appreciated, and the expansion and further equipment of the force and the extension of the scheme to the Western Bengal rivers will be undertaken as early as circumstances permit.

Chaukidars.

77. The extent to which the police receive effective assistance from the village chaukidars varies in different districts. Much must always depend on the individual police officer and his skill in using the materials at his disposal. The chaukidari administration is in a state of transition, and definite principles regarding the relations of the police with the *panchayats* on the one hand and the chaukidars on the other cannot yet be finally laid down. The immediate introduction of the complete circle system on the lines recommended by the District Administration Committee is impossible on account of legislative and financial difficulties which cannot be removed until after the termination of the war; but meanwhile much valuable experimental work is being done. The reports as to the success of the appointment of whole-time dafadars in the Madaripur Subdivision are now confirmed, and the question of the extension of the scheme to other Subdivisions is under consideration.

Crime.

78. Serious crime of all kinds except rioting showed a considerable increase, which was most marked in the case of offences against property. True cases of dacoity increased from 289 in 1914 to 653 in 1915; burglary cases from 30,294 to 39,812, and theft cases from 17,730 to 21,552. The increase in theft and burglary may be ascribed mainly to unfavourable economic conditions caused by partial crop failures in many districts of the Province and by the heavy fall in the price of jute. In the case of dacoity. however, there appears to be good reason for attributing the increase almost entirely to the state of unrest caused by the war. In the 24-Parganas, the members of a gang which was responsible for a number of dacoities represented themselves as Germans. The withdrawal of troops from the Dacca Division produced a widespread rumour that the police would also be withdrawn and sent to the front. In Nadia, Muhammadan criminals were told that they need not fear to go to jail, as the Germans and Turks would soon be in possession of India and would set them free. There can be little doubt that rumours of this kind led the more dangerous criminals to believe that Government was preoccupied with other matters and that a good opportunity for organized crime was open to them. The most serious outbreak of dacoity occurred in Bakarganj, where 158 cases were reported. A special Commission constituted under the Defence of India Act sat for over six months and tried 44 cases in which 198 persons were implicated. Forty-one cases ended in conviction, and 163 persons were sentenced to various terms of transportation and imprisonment. This action, together with the institution of proceedings under section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code, sufficed to check the outbreak. It is satisfactory to note that the rewards offered by Government of Rs. 1,500 for the arrest of armed dacoits and of Rs. 500 for the arrest of unarmed dacoits have had a good effect in inducing the people to resist attacks. A sum of Rs. 9,500 was distributed as rewards for the arrest of dacoits in 16 cases during the year.

The police as a whole had to contend with peculiar difficulties during 1915. Various causes for which they cannot be held responsible produced a

serious increase in crime at a time when long anticipated improvements in the conditions under which they work had to be postponed owing to the outbreak of the war, and while the energies of many of the ablest officers of the force had to be concentrated on the fight with revolution and anarchy. In spite of these difficulties, there has been a steady and sustained improvement in the spirit and *morale* of the force. The excellent training given at Sarda and in the Constables' schools have largely contributed to this result. The force has fully earned the high commendations which it has received from the Government of India and the Secretary of State.

Criminal tribes.

79. Mr. Daly has produced a valuable hand-book on the criminal tribes operating in Bengal, and much progress has been made in the extension of the Criminal Tribes Act. The operations of this Act have recently been extended rapidly in the Presidency.

Political Crime.

80. An outbreak of revolutionary crime in the early part of the year was followed by a lull after the introduction of the Defence of India Act in April. The latter part of the year was, however, marked by renewed activity on the part of the revolutionary party and the total number of cases believed to be connected with the movement was 36, as compared with 12 in the previous year. These cases included 24 dacoities, 2 attempted dacoities, 9 murders and 1 attempted bomb outrage. Of these, 7 dacoities and 5 murders occurred in Calcutta. In 4 of the Calcutta dacoities motor-cars were used by the dacoits. Among the victims in the murder cases were 3 police officers, viz., Deputy Superintendent Jotindra Mohan Ghosh, of the Bengal Police, who was murdered with his child at his house in Mymensingh on the 9th October; Sub-Inspector Suresh Chandra Mukharji, of the Calcutta Special Branch, who was shot dead in Cornwallis Street on the 28th February; Sub-Inspector Girindra Nath Banarji, of the Bengal Intelligence Branch, who was shot dead at 99, Masjidbari Street, on the 21st October. The other persons assassinated were a constable of the Calcutta Police, the Head Master of the Comilla Zilla School and 3 private persons, 1 of whom had rendered material assistance to the police in the detection of a dacoity case. Early in the year an attempt was made on the life of the Additional Superintendent of Police, Rangpur. He fortunately escaped unhurt but his orderly was killed.

In none of the murder cases was sufficient evidence forthcoming to justify the persons suspected being placed on their trial, but 5 notorious Bengali desperadoes, who had long been known to be engaged in murderous outrages, were rounded up in Orissa where they had established a retreat. In the course of the resistance which they offered one was killed and another mortally wounded. The other 3 were eventually tried by a Special Commission under the Defence of India Act. Two were sentenced to death and 1 to transportation for life. Three of the cases of dacoity were detected and brought before Special Commissions under the Defence of India Act and all resulted in conviction. In the first case (Pragpur-Khalilpur dacoity), of the 5 persons committed for trial, 4 were convicted and sentenced, 1 to 8 years' rigorous imprisonment and 3 to 10 years' transportation. In the second case (Agarpara dacoity) one *Bepin* Behari Ganguly was sent up for trial and was convicted and sentenced to 5 years' rigorous imprisonment. In the third case (Sibpur-Nadia dacoity) 14 persons were sent up for trial, one of whom turned King's evidence, 4 were discharged and 9 were convicted and sentenced, one to transportation for 10 years and 8 (including the leader) to transportation for life. In this dacoity the most reckless disregard of human life was displayed. During the dacoity and the subsequent pursuit of the culprits, in which the villagers showed great pluck and rendered most valuable assistance to the Police, no less than 4 persons were killed and 10 injured. As a result of successful action under the preventive sections of the Criminal Procedure Code, 19 dangerous characters were bound down and the movements of a considerable number of others were restrained by orders issued under the Defence of India Act. Vigorous action was taken in Calcutta to cope with the new form of crime known as motor dacoities. Alarms and traffic barriers were erected in suitable localities of the town and patrols by armed motor-cars were established. These measures, together with the action which was taken in other directions

to break up the revolutionary gangs and to segregate and restrain the movements of the most dangerous leaders, considerably weakened the revolutionary forces during the year, though recent events have shown that the end of the battle with murder and anarchy is not yet in sight.

The supplementary Barisal conspiracy case, which was under trial in the previous year, ended in the conviction of all the 5 accused by the Lower Courts, 1 being sentenced to 15 years' and the rest to 10 years' transportation. On appeal, the High Court acquitted two of the accused, upheld the conviction and sentence in the case of another, and in the case of the other two reduced the term of transportation from 15 to 2 years and from 10 to 7 years, respectively.

Shortly after the passing of the Defence of India Act, sections 2-11 thereof were brought into force in 17 of the districts of the Province; later in the year those sections were extended to the rest of the Presidency. Orders under Rule 3 of the Defence of India Rules of compulsory domicile or of expulsion were issued against 136 persons. Standing Commissions were formulated to try breaches of the conditions of the orders of compulsory domicile. Three Special Commissions were appointed to try the three specific cases of dacoity of a political nature mentioned above and another Special Commission was appointed to deal with a serious outbreak of dacoities in the Bakarganj district.

An important feature of the criminal history of the year was the part which the revolutionary element took in conjunction with Germans acting in the Far East to cause an insurrection in British India. In Bengal 19 persons implicated in the conspiracy were arrested and detained under Regulation III of 1818.

Of the 50 Mauser pistols and 46,000 rounds of ammunition consigned to Messrs. Rodda & Co., which were stolen in the previous year, several pistols and a large number of cartridges were recovered during the year under review.

A Committee was appointed in 1913 to consider the question of the institution of a Department of Public Prosecutions. The Committee's Report was received in April 1914 and after a careful consideration of the proposals of the Committee and with the approval of the Government of India sanction was given to the creation, as a temporary measure, for one year, with effect from the 1st February 1916, of the appointment of an Additional Legal Remembrancer on a salary of Rs. 2,500 per mensem. Mr. P. L. Roy, Barrister-at-law, who was appointed to the post, is working out, in consultation with the Legal Remembrancer, a detailed scheme for the organization of a Department of Public Prosecutions in Bengal. He is responsible, directly under the orders of Government and independently of the Legal Remembrancer, for the prosecution of such important State trials as may be entrusted to him and his duties in this respect are confined to scrutinizing the evidence of the prosecution, preparing the case for trial in Court and instructing Counsel.

Mortality caused by wild animals and snakes.

[Report on the above and measures taken for their destruction during 1915. Statistics of British India, Part V.—Area, population and public health.]

Wild animals.

81. The number of persons killed by wild animals rose from 332 in 1914 to 423 in 1915, the increase being shared by all the divisions, except Chittagong. There was a considerable increase in the number of deaths caused by elephants, tigers, leopards and bears, the total figure being 205 in 1915 against 128 in 1914.

Snakes.

82. The number of persons who died from snake-bite rose from 4,356 in 1914 to 4,703 in 1915, the increase being in the Dacca, Rajshahi and Chittagong Divisions where the figures rose from 581, 992 and 127 in 1914 to 816, 1,279 and 170, respectively, in 1915. The large increase was due to excessive floods which drove the snakes to take shelter in human habitations.

Cattle killed by wild animals.

83. In the year under report 4,185 head of cattle were killed by wild animals and 188 by snakes against 4,750 and 117, respectively, in 1914. The decrease under the former head occurred in all the divisions, while the

increase under the latter was most noticeable in the Burdwan and Rajshahi Divisions where the figure rose from 4 and 68 in 1914 to 40 and 115, respectively, in 1915.

Destruction of wild animals.

84. There was a small decrease in the total number of wild animals destroyed during the year under report, the number being 2,769 against 2,824 for 1914. The number of tigers and leopards destroyed, however, increased from 205 and 439 in 1914 to 275 and 496, respectively, in 1915. The number of snakes destroyed also increased from 10,215 in 1914 to 11,893 in 1915. The increase was most noticeable in the Burdwan, Dacca and Rajshahi Divisions where the figures rose from 4,892, 550 and 1,504 in 1914 to 6,178, 648 and 1905, respectively, in 1915. The amounts paid in reward for the destruction of wild animals and snakes were Rs. 17,977-12 and Rs. 178-13, respectively, the corresponding figures for 1914 being Rs. 17,477-2 and Rs. 157-5-6.

Police Administration in Calcutta.

[The Annual Report on the Police Administration of the town of Calcutta and its Suburbs for the year 1915. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Reward.

85. During the year the Commissioner of Police was empowered to grant rewards up to Rs. 500 in any one case for the apprehension of offenders and for intelligence leading to the discovery of crime. There has been a considerable increase in the total amount of the rewards granted, a sum of Rs. 18,857 having been disbursed against Rs. 8,612 in 1914.

Building.

86. Owing to the financial situation it has unfortunately been found impossible to proceed with several important building schemes which are still pending for allotment of funds. The problem of housing the police force in Calcutta is becoming very serious, and a sum exceeding Rs. 20,00,000 was spent during the year in renting houses for the accommodation of officers and men.

Cruelty to animals.

87. In connection with cases of cruelty to animals there has been an increase in the number of horses sent to Belgachia for treatment. The attention of Magistrates in Calcutta and Alipore has recently been drawn to the remedy, both penal and preventive, provided by section 5 B of Bengal Act I of 1869, as amended by Bengal Act III of 1900, and it is hoped that Magistrates will make a more extended use of their powers to order the treatment at an infirmary, at the owner's expense, of animals suffering from cruelty. The Committee appointed by Government in March 1915 to consider certain questions relating to the administration of the Cruelty to Animals Act have submitted their report, and their recommendations are now being dealt with by Government.

Juvenile offenders.

88. More than 1,000 juvenile offenders were brought to trial during the year. Most of them were tried in the special Court in the House of Detention; only 14 were actually sent to jail, the remainder being dealt with in other ways. Two probationary officers have been appointed to supervise the conduct of juvenile offenders released from the House of Detention. They attend the Juvenile Court daily and receive instructions from the trying Magistrates as to the treatment of juvenile offenders.

Motor dacoities.

89. Vigorous action has been taken to cope with the new form of crime known as motor dacoities. Alarms and traffic barriers have been erected in suitable localities, and patrols by armed motor-cars have been established. These measures, together with the action which has been taken in other directions to break up the revolutionary gangs and to segregate and restrain the movements of the most dangerous leaders, led temporarily to a perceptible improvement in the situation.

Motor vehicles.

90. The administration of the revised motor-car rules, came into force on the 1st April 1915. There was at first some opposition to the new regulations among a section of the taxi-cab drivers, who struck work for a few days, but the trouble was speedily overcome.

Fire Brigade.

91. The working of the Calcutta Fire Brigade shows continued improvement. The Brigade was called up on 272 occasions during the year, and the average loss per call was only Rs. 1,273 as compared with Rs. 4,656 in the

previous year, and an average of Rs. 5,735 during the preceding five years. This satisfactory result must be attributed not merely to the increased efficiency of the Brigade but also to the growing confidence of the public, who now realise the importance of giving the earliest information of the outbreak of fire.

Criminal Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Province of Bengal for the year 1915. Statistics of British India, Part VI.—Administrative and Judicial.]

Judicial staff.

92. For sessions work, the staff consisted of 21 Sessions Judges and 6 Additional Sessions Judges employed throughout the year. Four Subordinate Judges were vested with the powers of Assistant Sessions Judge. They were employed in Mymensingh, Faridpur and Bogra, where they decided 50, 11 and 8 cases, respectively. Besides the above, temporary Additional Sessions Judges were employed during the year in the districts of Bakarganj, Faridpur, Hooghly, Midnapore, Dinajpur and the 24-Parganas. The magisterial staff employed at the close of the year, including that of the Presidency town, consisted of 377 Stipendiary and 802 Honorary Magistrates. These figures represent an increase of 26 and 8, respectively, on the numbers of the previous year. One Special Magistrate was employed in Noakhali, and he decided 128 cases. Of the 377 Stipendiary Magistrates, 253 exercised first, 89 second, and 35 third class powers.

There were 135 Benches of Magistrates constituted from among 725 Honorary Magistrates in the mufassal. Of the total, 106 were independent and 29 were restricted to the trial of cases under the Municipal Act.

Offences reported.

93. There were 331,362 criminal offences reported during the year, a decrease of 11,039 on the figures of 1914 Of the total, 171,655 were under the Indian Penal Code and 159,707 under special and local laws. These totals are less by 4,873 and 6,166, respectively, than those of 1914. The decrease was most marked in Tippera, Dacca, Chittagong and Nadia as regards offences under the Penal Code and in the Presidency town, the 24-Parganas, Chittagong and Tippera as regards offences under special and local laws.

False cases.

94. The number of cases found to be false, or in which complaints were dismissed, was 54,701 or 16·5 per cent., of the number reported during the year. These figures include cases pending inquiry at the close of 1914. The percentage for the preceding year was 18·4. Complaints were dismissed in 49,944 cases, or 7,838 less than in 1914. The number of cases declared to be false after trial or inquiry was 4,757, or 658 less than in 1914.

True cases.

95. Of the total number of cases under inquiry, 276,559 were found to be true, and of these 228,547 were brought to trial. Inquiries were pending at the close of the year in 13,875 cases. Compared with 1914, the number of cases found to be true and the number brought to trial show a decrease of 3,216 and 7,656, respectively.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—Magistrates' Courts.

Total cases for trial.

96. Of the total number of cases brought to trial 91,915 were in the courts of the Police and Municipal Magistrates in the Presidency town, and 136,632 in the courts of Magistrates in the mufassal.

A.—Presidency Magistrates, Calcutta. Cases for trial.

97. The number of cases brought before Presidency Magistrates, including the Municipal Magistrate, was smaller by 6,708 than in 1914. The number of cases under special and local laws was 85,930, or 5,926 less than in 1914, while cases under the Penal Code fell from 6,767 to 5,985. The decrease under the former head was most marked in offences under the Act for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals which fell from 9,316 to 6,363. The number of offences under the Police Act also fell from 53,256 to 52,946. There was a notable increase, on the other hand, in offences under the Bengal Motor-Car and Cycle Act which rose from 942 to 1,479. As regards offences

under the Penal Code, there was a decrease in offences affecting the public health, safety, etc.. which fell from 2,119 to 1,495. Before Presidency Magistrates, other than the Municipal Magistrate, 73,537 cases were disposed of during the year, of which 48,732 were before Stipendiary Magistrates, 23,687 before Honorary Magistrates sitting singly, and 1,118 before benches. In 1914, 77.602 cases were decided, of which 52,137 were before Stipendiary Magistrates, 25,011 before Honorary Magistrates sitting singly, and 454 before benches. Two hundred and thirty-two cases were pending at the close of the year. Of the total number disposed of, 77 were committed to the High Court, and the remainder were finally decided by Magistrates, 532 under ordinary, and the remainder under summary procedure. The number of witnesses examined before the Police Magistrate was 20,949, as compared with 22,317 in 1914. The number of those who attended and were discharged without examination was 670, or 3·1 per cent. of the whole number in attendance. Of the total number in attendance, 17,589 (81·4 per cent.) were discharged on the first day; 3,386 (15·7 per cent.) on the second; 509 (2·3 per cent.) on the third; and 135 (·6 per cent.) after the third day. The number of witnesses detained for more than three days was 207 less than in 1914. The number of cases brought before the court of the Municipal Magistrate was 18,282, all of which were cases under the Calcutta Municipal Act. The number of cases disposed of was 18,281, of which 17,858 were decided under the summary procedure, and one case remained pending at the close of the year. Compared with 1914, the number of cases instituted and disposed of shows a decrease of 2,643 and 2,645, respectively. The number of witnesses examined before the Municipal Magistrate fell from 5,201 to 3,467. Of the witnesses in attendance, none were detained for more than three days.

Results of trials.

98. The aggregate number of persons under trial before the Presidency Magistrates, other than the Municipal Magistrate, was 79,616. Of the persons tried, 10,295 were acquitted or discharged, 68,816 were convicted, 14 persons died, 11 persons were transferred for trial to another district, 1 person escaped, 116, including one person for trial by the Special Tribunal under Act XIV of 1908, were committed or referred to the High Court, and 363 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of persons acquitted or discharged, the cases of 6,874 were compounded, withdrawn or dismissed for default. Of persons tried for offences under the Penal Code, 3,508 were convicted and 4,104 acquitted or discharged. The results of trials be ore each class of Magistrates during the year are shown below :—

	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of conviction.
Stipendiary Magistrates ...	6,514	45,404	87·4
Benches of ,, ...	138	1,050	88·3
Honorary Magistrates sitting singly.	3,643	22,362	85·9

Of the persons convicted, 2,515 were punished with rigorous imprisonment, the sentence in the case of 8 persons including terms of solitary confinement; 1,034 were punished with simple imprisonment; 60,049 with fine; and 195 with whipping. One hundred and twelve of the persons sentenced to fine were so sentenced in addition to other punishments.

Forty-one sentences of imprisonment were, in the case of youthful offenders, commuted to detention in a reformatory school. Four thousand five hundred and twelve convicted persons were warned and discharged.

In addition to these sentences, 402 persons were required to furnish security for good behaviour, of whom 396 were imprisoned in default for terms not exceeding one year; 30 persons convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace were ordered to execute bonds to keep the peace; 100 persons were released on probation under section 562, Criminal Procedure Code; and various miscellaneous orders were passed under special laws in the cases of 115 persons. The number of persons released on probation of good conduct shows a decrease of 45, as compared with 1914.

Before the Municipal Magistrate, 22,102 persons were under trial, of whom 20,960 were convicted, 1,141 were acquitted or discharged, and 1 remained under trial at the close of the year. The percentage of convictions

was 94·8. Of the persons convicted, 13,188 were punished with fines, and the others were ordered to comply with the various requirements of the rules and bye-laws of the Calcutta Corporation.

B.—Magistrates outside Calcutta. Cases for trial.

99. At the opening of the year, 4,920 cases, besides cases of lunatics, were pending before Magistrates outside Calcutta. During the year, 136,685 cases, including references under sections 347 and 349, Criminal Procedure Code, were brought to trial, 136,570 were disposed of and 4,977 remained pending at its close. The cases brought to trial were less than in 1914 by 940. Under the Indian Penal Code the decrease was chiefly in offences affecting the human body (2,280). On the other hand, the increase was most marked in offences against property (482). There was an increase in cases under special and local laws. The variations under the other heads were slight.

A decrease in the number of cases instituted is reported from 12, and an increase from 14, districts. The decrease was most marked in Chittagong (1,827), Jessore (789), Tippera (640), Nadia (527), the 24-Parganas (463) and Midnapore (432), while the increase was greatest in Howrah (2,342), Noakhali (420) and Murshidabad (396). The decrease in Chittagong occurred both in cases under the Penal Code and in cases under special and local laws, being most marked under the former head, in offences affecting the human body and in offences against property. This district reported the largest increase under these heads in the previous year. The increase in Howrah was in cases under special and local laws and was most marked in offences under the Act for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

The disposals were distributed as follows:—

	Tried regularly.	Tried summarily.
District Magistrates	580	60
Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates ...	75,311	38,902
Honorary Magistrates	13,337	2,020
Benches of Magistrates	2,672	3,508
Special Magistrates	128	...

In addition to the cases shown above, District and Subdivisional Magistrates decided 52 cases referred to them under sections 347 and 349 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The number of cases decided during the year was less than the number decided in 1914 by 1,478. The decrease occurred in the courts of Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates, District Magistrates, Benches of Magistrates and Special Magistrates who disposed of 2,506, 581, 474 and 36 cases less, respectively, than in the preceding year. The number of cases disposed of by Honorary Magistrates shows an increase of 2,119 as compared with 1914.

The total number of cases disposed of by District Magistrates was 692, the largest number having been decided by the District Magistrates of Mymensingh (166), Bankura (152) and Bakarganj (101).

Results of trials.

100. Of the total number of cases shown in the preceding paragraph, 1,461 were committed or referred to the Sessions, and 135,109 were finally disposed of by Magistrates. In these latter, 190,678 persons were accused, this number being 538 less than in 1914. Of the total 104,047, or 54·6 per cent., were convicted, and 86,631, or 45·4 per cent., were acquitted or discharged. In 1914, 51·7 per cent. of the persons tried were convicted. Of the persons acquitted or discharged, the cases of 45,549 were compounded, withdrawn or dismissed for default. The percentage of convictions of persons actually tried was 71·6 against 69·2 in 1914. Of the persons tried for offences under the Indian Penal Code, 35,754, or 33·1 per cent., were convicted, and 72,167, or 66·9 per cent., were acquitted or discharged. Of the latter, the cases of 40,729 persons were compounded, withdrawn or dismissed for default. The percentage of convictions of persons actually tried under the Penal Code was 53·2 against 50·8 in 1914. The total number of persons awaiting trial before Magistrates at the close of 1915 was 9,323, as compared with 8,969 in 1914. Of these, 7, including one in custody, were awaiting trial for more than six months. Explanations of the delay in the disposal of all cases pending for more than three months, submitted by the Magistrates concerned, have been considered by the High Court, and the necessary orders have been passed on

them. The number of persons in custody at the close of the year was 800, against 599 in 1914.

The general result of trials before Magistrates of each class was as follows :—

	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of convictions.
Benches of Magistrates	3,685	4,641	55·7
Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates	72,776	88,805	54·9
Honorary Magistrates	9,184	10,305	52·8
Special Magistrates	126	21	14·2
District Magistrates	860	275	24·2

Of the persons shown as convicted above, the numbers tried summarily were by benches of Magistrates, 3,017 ; by Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates, 42,009 ; by Honorary Magistrates, 1,752 ; and by District Magistrates, 108.

The mode of trial of the total number of persons convicted and the nature of the sentences passed were as follows :—

	Appealable sentence.	Non-appealable sentence.
On regular trial	43,291	13,870
On summary trial	3,251	43,635

101. The sentences passed on persons convicted were as follows :— Punishments.

Imprisonment	Rigorous	16,312
	Simple	786
Fine ...	With imprisonment	2,668
	Without imprisonment	78,986
Whipping ...	Sole punishment	404

A term of solitary confinement was included in 68 of the sentences of rigorous imprisonment, and in the case of 49 youthful offenders the sentence of imprisonment was commuted to one of detention in a reformatory school. Three thousand five hundred and sixty-nine persons were called upon to give security to be of good behaviour, 3,417 of whom were sentenced to terms of imprisonment, not exceeding one year, on failing to comply with the orders. Four hundred and seventy persons, against 475 in 1904, were released on probation under section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Against 21 persons who had previously been so released, proceedings were subsequently taken ; all were convicted and punished. In addition to substantive punishments, 4,348 persons were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, 1,165 on conviction of offences involving a breach of the peace. Of the sentences of imprisonment imposed, 3,248 were for terms not exceeding 15 days ; 11,273 for terms not exceeding 6 months ; 5,928 for terms not exceeding 2 years ; and 17 for terms exceeding 2 years.

Sentences of whipping were passed on 404 persons, as against 334 in the preceding year. Six of the sentences of whipping, against 5 in the previous year, were not in accordance with the Whipping Act of 1909. In all of them the sentences were executed. The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 7,14,366. Rupees 6,45,707 were realised, of which Rs. 99,995 were paid as compensation to complainants.

102. In addition to criminal trials, the following were the more important classes of work dealt with by Magistrates in the mufassal. Miscellaneous Proceedings. Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter VIII.

There were 2,174 proceedings under Chapter VIII, Criminal Procedure Code, to prevent a breach of the peace, in which 9,302 persons were involved. The number of cases and the persons involved were less than the number brought before the courts in 1914. Of the persons concerned, 3,183 were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, in addition to the persons mentioned in the preceding paragraph as having been similarly bound down on conviction. The number of persons dealt with under this chapter was largest in Bakarganj (2,205), Mymensingh (855), Dacca (657), Faridpur (640) and Jessore (633). In Jessore and Pabna there was a large decrease in the number of proceedings of this class, while the figures show a marked increase

in Bakarganj as compared with 1914. In 1,917 cases, 5,035 persons were called upon to show cause why they should not give security to be of good behaviour, and the orders were made absolute against 4,166. Of these, 4,014 failed to give the required security and were imprisoned in default, 597 after reference to the Court of Session under section 123 of the Code, and 3,417 under orders of Magistrates for terms not exceeding one year.

Chapters X, XII and XXXVI.

103. Proceedings for the abatement of nuisances under Chapter X of the Code were taken in 1,166 cases, and in the cases of 428 persons a reference was made to a jury under section 138 of the Code. The number of cases under Chapter XII of the Code, involving questions of the possession of land, decided by Magistrates, was 1,174, a decrease of 639 on the figures for 1914. Under section 250 of the Code, 611 complainants were ordered to pay compensation to accused persons, their accusations having been found to be frivolous or vexatious. Proceedings for maintenance under Chapter XXXVI of the Code were taken against 942 persons, and orders were made absolute against 246.

Witnesses.

104. The number of witnesses examined in the Courts of Magistrates in the mufassal was 375,788, as compared with 361,422 in 1914. The number who attended and were discharged without examination was 172,822, or 31·5 per cent. of the whole number in attendance. In the preceding year, the percentage was 33·7. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses of their attendance rose from Rs. 1,47,132 in 1914 to Rs. 1,70,475 *in* 1915. Of the total number in attendance, 402,195 (73·3 per cent.) were discharged on the first day; 103,883 (18·9 per cent.) on the second; 31,469 (5·8 per cent.) on the third; and 11,063 (2 per cent.) after the third day. The number of witnesses detained for more than three days was 1,960 less than in 1914; on the other hand, the number of witnesses examined was larger. The districts in which the largest percentage of witnesses was detained for more than three days were Khulna (6·6), Bakarganj (4·3) and Faridpur (3·4). Explanations of all these detentions have been dealt with by the High Court.

II.—Courts of Session.

Commitments.

105. The number of cases committed for trial or referred during the year was 1,461, or 139 more than in 1914; and the number decided, including pending cases of the previous year, was 1,407, or 111 more than in 1914. There were 252 cases pending at the close of the year. Commitments increased in 14 districts and decreased in 8, and in 4 districts the figures were the same as in the preceding year. The increase was marked in the following districts: in Bakarganj from 176 to 214; in Midnapore from 46 to 75; in Bankura from 17 to 45; and in Dinajpur from 19 to 38. On the other hand, the decrease was noticeable in Burdwan from 53 to 38; in Howrah from 67 to 52; in Jessore from 70 to 55; and in Faridpur from 108 to 93. The number of commitments was, as in the previous year, largest in Bakarganj (214).

Results of trials.

106. There were 3,774 persons, or 508 more than in 1914, under trial before Courts of Session. The cases of 3,097 persons were decided, and 663 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of the 3,097 persons tried, 1,976, or 63·8 per cent. were convicted and 1,016 were acquitted or discharged, and the cases of 105 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Punishments.

107. The following sentences were passed by the Courts of Session :—

Death ...	...	34
Transportation	for life ...	63
	for a term of years ...	25
Imprisonment	rigorous ...	1,266
	simple ...	10
Fine ...	...	60
Whipping	...	7

In the cases of 22, out of the 1,266 persons sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, the sentences included terms of solitary confinement. Fifty of the sentences of fine and three of whipping were additional punishments.

Four of the sentences of whipping were not in accordance with the provisions of the Whipping Act of 1909. Besides the above, 597 persons were sentenced to rigorous or simple imprisonment (61 for terms not exceeding one year and 536 for terms between one year and three years) on failure to furnish security for good behaviour; and 6 persons, who had been convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace, were required to execute bonds without sureties to keep the peace in addition to their substantive punishment.

Sentences of imprisonment were passed for the following terms :—

Not exceeding	15 days	14
	6 months	165
	2 years	592
	7 „	1,048
Exceeding 7 years	... ...	54

Fines to the amount of Rs. 27,385 were imposed by Courts of Session, as compared with Rs. 23,856 imposed in the preceding year. The total realizations of the year aggregated Rs. 5,681, as compared with Rs. 6,643 in 1914. The amount of fines realized and paid as compensation fell from Rs. 6,491 to Rs. 3,500.

Jury trials.

108. The number of persons tried by jury was 1,243 and of the persons so tried, the Sessions Judge approved of the verdict of the jury in respect of 1,120 persons, and disapproved of it in respect of 123. The Sessions Judge disagreed with the verdict of the jury in regard to 71 persons and referred the cases to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The results of these references are given under the head "Superintendence, Reference and Revision."

Trials with the aid of assessors.

109. The number of persons tried with the aid of assessors was 1,033. In the cases of 685 persons, the Sessions Judge concurred with the opinion of both the assessors; in the cases of 168 he differed from the opinion of one; and in the cases of 180 he differed from the opinion of both the assessors. The corresponding figures of 1914 were 994, 691, 135 and 168, respectively.

Duration of cases.

110. The average duration of sessions trials, from the date of commitment to the date of decision, rose from 42·5 days in 1914 to 43·3 days in 1915. Notice was, as usual, taken by the High Court of all cases of unusual duration. The duration of cases was highest in the districts of Jessore (73·3), the 24-Parganas (68·4), Malda (58·9), Khulna (52·4) and Faridpur (52·3). The increase in the duration of cases from 28·8 to 52·4 days in Khulna, from 43 to 58·9 days in Malda, from 23·8 to 38·4 days in Hooghly, from 35·7 to 50·3 days in Rajshahi, and from 37·8 to 52·3 days in Faridpur is noticeable; there was a marked reduction from 64·1 to 39·2 days in Howrah and from 44·8 to 27·5 days in Chittagong.

Witnesses.

111. The number of witnesses in attendance before the Courts of Session was 25,506. Of these, 14,966 were examined and 10,540 discharged without examination. In 1914, the corresponding figures were 12,724 and 10,029, respectively. Of the total number in attendance, 10,415 (40·8 per cent.) were discharged on the first day; 8,072 (31·7 per cent.) on the second day; 3,963 (15·5 per cent.) on the third day; and 3,056 (12 per cent.) after the third day. The proportion of witnesses discharged after the third day was higher than in 1914 (10·3 per cent.). The High Court has taken due notice of cases of excessive detention of witnesses in reviewing the district reports. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses incurred by them in attending sessions trials was Rs. 72,250, as compared with Rs. 61,618 in 1914.

Commitments, etc., to the High Court.

112. Seven cases were pending at the opening of the year, and 76 cases were brought to trial in the High Court during the year. Of these, 80 were tried during the year, and 3 remained undecided at its close. Altogether 107 persons were tried, of whom 83 were convicted and 24 acquitted. The number of witnesses examined was 619 and the average duration of cases from commitment was 43·1 days, against 36·7 days in 1914.

III.—High Court Special Bench.

Result of trial.

113. One case against one accused was committed to the High Court by the Chief Presidency Magistrate for trial by a Special Bench under Act XIV

of 1908. The accused person was acquitted. Forty-five witnesses were examined in the case, and its duration from the date of commitment was 63 days.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Appeals.

114. At the opening of 1915, 51 appeals were pending before the High Court from sentences or orders of criminal courts. During the year, 691 appeals were preferred, and 703 were decided, leaving 39 pending at its close. The numbers preferred and decided were 13 and 42 more, respectively, than in the preceding year. The pending file shows a decrease of 12. Of the appeals against sentences preferred, 562 were from Courts of Session and 124 from Courts of Presidency Magistrates. Five appeals were preferred by the Local Government against orders of acquittal.

Result of appeals.

115. Five hundred and seventy-two appeals against sentences of Courts of Session were decided. The orders of the Lower Courts were upheld in 509 instances, reversed in 25, and modified in 33. Five cases were remanded for retrial. One hundred and twenty-five appeals from the orders of Magistrates of the Presidency town were decided, the orders being affirmed in 116 cases, modified in 4 and reversed in 4. One case was remanded for retrial. The results of appeals decided, as affecting individuals, were that the appeals of 804 persons were summarily dismissed under section 421 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and that in admitted appeals, sentences on 135 appellants were confirmed, on 1 enhanced, on 50 reduced or altered, and on 63 annulled. In the cases of 10 a new trial or further inquiry was ordered.

Appeals against acquittals.

116. Six appeals by the Local Government against orders of acquittal were decided during the year. Of these, 5 were against orders of acquittal passed by Sessions Judges; and 1 against an order of acquittal passed by the Chief Presidency Magistrate. In one of these cases, two persons had been convicted and sentenced under sections 143 and 342 of the Indian Penal Code by a Deputy Magistrate. The High Court dismissed the appeal in respect of one person, and with regard to the other, set aside the order of acquittal passed by the Sessions Judge on appeal and restored the conviction and sentence passed by the first Court. In the second case one person had been acquitted by an Additional Sessions Judge of charges under sections 302, 304, 307 and 308 of the Indian Penal Code. The High Court ordered a retrial on all the charges. In the third case in which the accused person was acquitted by an Additional Sessions Judge of an offence under section 120 B of the Indian Penal Code, the High Court dismissed the appeal. In the fourth and fifth (analogous) cases. 4 persons were convicted under sections 120 B, 420, 161, 420/109 and 161/109 of the Indian Penal Code and sentenced to various terms of rigorous imprisonment by a Deputy Magistrate. The High Court upheld the order of acquittal passed by the Sessions Judge on appeal in respect of one person and convicted and sentenced the others under sections 420 and 420/109 of the Indian Penal Code. In the last case, the appeal to the High Court was against the order of the Chief Presidency Magistrate, acquitting a person of one out of three charges under section 3 of the Commercial Intercourse with Enemies Ordinance, VI of 1914. The High Court dismissed the appeal, the Crown not pressing it, and confirmed the conviction and modified the sentence on another of the charges on the appeal preferred by the accused.

II.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions Courts.

117. There were 203 appeals pending before the Courts of Session at the opening of the year. During the year, 3,486 appeals were preferred, 7 were received on remand, 3,498 were decided, and 198 remained pending at its close. The number of appeals preferred was 39 more than in 1914. In the appeals decided, 5,686 persons were concerned. The appeals of 1,340 of these, or 23·5 per cent. were summarily dismissed; 2,193 appellants, whose appeals were admitted, were altogether unsuccessful; 891 obtained a reduction or alteration of sentence, and 1,174 were acquitted; in the case of 88 appellants

a new trial or further inquiry was ordered The proportion of persons whose appeals were wholly unsuccessful, successful in obtaining a modification of the original orders, and successful in obtaining their reversal, was 62·1, 15·6, and 20·6, respectively. Of those concerned in admitted appeals only, the proportions were 50·4, 20·5 and 27 per cent. If admitted appeals only are considered, these results were, on the whole, more favourable to appellants than in the previous year.

Magistrates' Courts.

118. In the courts of Magistrates, 215 appeals were pending at the opening of the year. During the year, 3,775 appeals were preferred, 3,827 were decided and 163 remained pending at its close The number preferred was less than in 1914 by 374. The number of persons whose appeals were decided by Courts of Magistrates was 6,257. Of these, the appeals of 1,270 were summarily dismissed, and the sentences on 2,499, whose appeals were admitted, were confirmed: making a total of 3,769 wholly unsuccessful appellants, or 60·2 per cent. Of the remainder, 798 appellants, or 12·7 per cent., obtained a modification of the sentences passed on them, and 1,615, or 25·1 per cent., their total annulment. In the case of 72 appellants, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered, and 3 cases were referred to the High Court. Compared with 1914, the results were more favourable to appellants.

SUPERINTENDENCE, REFERENCES AND REVISION.

I.—High Court.

References under section 307, Code of Criminal Procedure.

119. Four references under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure from verdicts of juries were pending in the High Court at the opening of the year, and 48 were made during the year. Forty-four of these references were decided during the year and 8 remained undecided at its close. The result of the 44 cases disposed of was that the verdict of the jury was accepted in 10 cases, set aside in 28, and modified in 6.

References under section 374, Code of Criminal Procedure.

120. Twenty-nine references under section 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for confirmation of death sentences were made to the High Court during 1915, and 7 were pending at the opening of the year. Thirty-three were decided during the year, in which 37 persons were concerned: the death sentences on 26 were confirmed, and in the cases of 4, the sentence was commuted to transportation for life. In the case of one person a retrial was ordered. The remaining six persons were acquitted.

References under section 341, Code of Criminal Procedure.

121. The cases of five persons, who, though not insane, could not be made to understand the proceedings, were referred for the orders of the High Court. All the cases were disposed of during the year. In four of these cases, the convictions were approved and sentences passed by the High Court; in the remaining case the record was returned to the Lower Court, the reference being premature.

Revision.

122. During the year, 162 cases were reported for the orders of the High Court by Sessions Judges and District Magistrates under section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and 11 were pending at the opening of the year. Of these, 163 were decided, and 10 remained pending. The number reported was 17 less than in 1914. In 58 cases, the orders sent up for revision were set aside, or the proceedings quashed, and in 21 a new trial was ordered. Sentences were reduced or altered in 25 cases and enhanced in 3. In the remaining 56 cases the High Court declined to interfere.

Under section 435 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, orders were passed in 1,078 cases, a decrease of 272 on the figures of the previous year. Of these 1,069 came before the High Court on applications made to it, and 9 were taken up by the Court on review of sessions statements or otherwise of its own motion.

Of the applications for the issue of rules, 714 were rejected. Of 355 rules issued, 120 were finally discharged; 92 were made absolute in their entirety; the orders complained of were modified in 68 cases and quashed in 19; in 56 cases a new trial was ordered.

In 4 out of the 9 cases taken up by the High Court *suo motu*, the order passed by the Lower Court was not disturbed; in 1 the sentence was reduced, and in 4 enhanced.

Applications for transfer.

123. Eighty applications under section 526 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for the transfer of cases (65 original cases and 15 appeals) from one court or district to another were on the files ; all of them were disposed of. Forty-one were summarily rejected and in 18 cases transfers were granted without the issue of a rule. In 21 cases rules were issued with the result that transfers were granted in 9 and refused in 12 cases.

II.—Court Subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions Courts.

124. Including accused persons who themselves applied for revision of the orders passed on them in the Courts of Magistrates, and accused persons against whom such applications were made by complainants, the cases of 7,602 persons were decided on revision by Courts of Session during the year. The number was less than in 1914 by 1,227. The applications of 2,648 persons were rejected, and as regards 2,167, the orders of the Lower Court were confirmed. Orders passed in the cases of 74 persons were reversed ; in 4 instances proceedings were quashed ; and the order of the Lower Court was modified in the case of 1 person. The cases of 248 persons were referred to the High Court, and in the cases of 2,460 persons new trials or further inquiries were ordered.

Magistrates' Courts.

125. The cases of 2,136 accused persons who applied for revision, or against whom applications were made by complainants, came before District Magistrates for revision. The number was less by 843 than in 1914. Of the total, the applications of 1,054 persons were rejected, and in the cases of 386 the original sentence or order was upheld. Sentences or orders affecting 39 persons were modified, and those affecting 145 were reversed. In the cases of 30 persons proceedings were quashed, and in those of 432 new trials or further inquiries were directed. The cases of 50 persons were referred to the High Court.

III.—General.

Trials of European British subjects.

126. The cases of 25 European British subjects were decided during the year as against 41 in the previous year. Of these 23 were dealt with by Magistrates, 1 by the Court of Session, and 1 by the High Court. Of the accused persons, one claimed to be tried by a mixed jury. In the cases disposed of, 12 persons were convicted and 13 acquitted. The convictions were in 4 cases for offences under special and local laws ; in 4 cases for offences affecting the human body ; in 3 cases for offences against property ; and in 1 case for an offence affecting the public health, safety, etc.

The number of European British subjects tried was largest in Darjeeling.

Results of revisional work.

127. During the year under review, there was a decrease, as compared with the previous year, in the number of criminal cases disposed of by Magistrates in the mufassal and also in the Presidency town ; on the other hand, there was a substantial increase in the outturn of the Honorary Magistrates in the mufassal. Magistrates disposed of less appellate and revisional work during the year. In the Courts of Session there was an increase of original and appellate, but a decrease of revisional, work. In the High Court there was a slight increase both in original and appellate work, and a decrease in revisional work. Thirteen persons (6 in Bakarganj and 7 in the Presidency town) were under trial for offences against the State. Of these, 10 were convicted and 3 were acquitted. During the year under review, illegal sentences of whipping were passed in 11 cases, as against 8 in 1914. This is a matter of grave concern, and it is to be hoped that better results will be shown next year.

Receipts and charges.

128. Debiting, as usual, to the administration of criminal justice, a portion of the salaries of judicial officers calculated according to the time which their returns show them to have devoted to it, the total charges for the year amounted to Rs. 27,55,866. Of this amount, Rs. 15,74,008 were for the salaries of judicial officers ; Rs. 1,42,767 for fixed and temporary copying establishments ; Rs. 74,382 for process-servers ; Rs. 4,18,484 for other establishments ; and Rs. 5,46,225 for contingencies and refunds. The receipts amounted to Rs. 15,75,144. Of this amount, Rs. 8,28,803 were under

fines; Rs. 1,55,472 under process-fees; Rs. 1,66,905 under copying and comparing fees; Rs. 3,54,741 under court-fee stamp receipts other than the above; and Rs. 69,223 were miscellaneous receipts. The receipts and charges were less than those of 1914 by over Rs. 1,46,000 and Rs. 41,000 respectively.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN THE SCHEDULED DISTRICT OF THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS.

Chittagong Hill Tracts.

129. The number of cases brought to trial during 1915 in the Scheduled District of the Chittagong Hill Tracts was 134. The total number of cases disposed of was 128. The number of witnesses examined was 495. The total number of persons under trial, including those awaiting trial from the previous year, was 259; of these, 139 were acquitted or discharged, and 111 convicted. Of the cases brought to trial, 32 were for theft, 17 for criminal trespass and 32 for offences under special and local laws. The total number of appellants and applicants for revision was 37, of whom 16 were wholly or partly successful.

Jails.

[The Report on the Administration of the Jail Department in the Presidency of Bengal for the year 1915. Statistics of British India Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Jail population.

130. There was a marked increase in the number of prisoners confined in the jails of Bengal during the year, the number of admissions being 81,801 as compared with 69,204 in 1914, and the average daily population 14,473 against 12,496 in the previous year. Nearly all the jails were in consequence seriously overcrowded at various times. Arrangements have been made for the erection of temporary wards in some of the jails. The increase in the jail population is probably due, at any rate in part, to special causes which will cease to operate when normal conditions are restored. It is clear, however, that additional jail accommodation is required and will have to be provided when funds are available.

The overcrowding of the jails considerably increased the labours and responsibilities of the jail staff in maintaining discipline. A serious outbreak occurred in the Patuakhali sub-jail in June, when 42 under-trial prisoners overpowered the jail staff and forced their way out. All except two were recaptured. Apart from this incident, and a few others of a similar nature but of less importance, the discipline maintained was, on the whole, very satisfactory and reflects great credit on the warder staff. There was some increase in the total number of jail offences, but the ratio of total punishments to the daily average jail population was less than in 1914. The penalty of whipping was inflicted in 48 cases as compared with 60 in the previous year.

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

Health and mortality of prisoners.

131. The daily average number of prisoners in hospital was 765 as compared with 582 in the previous year, but the death-rate was only 20·6 per mille, or 1 per mille less than in 1914. The marked improvement in the health of the jails at Barisal, Jessore, Rangpur and Jalpaiguri is attributed to the skill and care of the medical officers in charge. There was a serious outbreak of dysentery at Midnapore, but it is hoped that the measures taken by the Inspector-General will remedy matters. Dinajpur is still the most unhealthy jail in the Province. Funds have been provided for the erection of a new hospital which, it is hoped, will be completed before the end of the year with marked benefit to the health of the prisoners. The difficulty of coping with the outbreaks of disease, both at Midnapore and Dinajpur, seems to have been aggravated by the inexperience of the jail staff and the absence of the experienced Jail Superintendents, who have been temporarily recalled to military duty, has been much felt in this and in other respects.

Juvenile jail.

132. The Juvenile Jail at Alipore continues to do good work, and the Inspector-General of Prisons contemplates the formation of a representative Committee, including employers of labour, both Indian and European, whose special function it will be to provide work for the boys on release and to keep a friendly eye on them. There is ample scope for philanthropic work of this kind, and it is hoped that the efforts of the Inspector-General of Prisons will be crowned with success.

The manufacture of quinine tablets at this jail has developed in a remarkable manner, the number of "treatments" or tubes sold having increased from 300,000 in 1914 to 1,400,000 in 1915.

Jail industries. 133. The industrial record of the other jails is satisfactory. The net earnings for the year amounted to nearly Rs. 5¼ lakhs as compared with Rs. 4,84,000 in the previous year. The outturn of gunny cloth at the Presidency Jail was nearly double that of the previous year. About four-fifths of the cloth was taken by the Military Department, which has also given the new woollen factory at the Dacca Central Jail a good start with a contract for 10,000 blankets.

Dietary. 134. In spite of careful and economical arrangements for the purchase of food grains for the jail population, the cost of diet has increased from Rs. 45 to Rs. 47-7 per head. There was a slight fall in the average price at which rice was purchased, but all other food grains were dearer than in the previous year. The improved dietary recommended by Major McCay, involving the partial substitution of wheat for rice, is gradually growing in favour both with the prisoners and also with the subordinate medical staff, who have begun to appreciate its dietetic superiority to the all-rice diet to which most of the prisoners are accustomed in their own homes.

Warder Service. 135. The proposals of the Government of Bengal for the reorganization of the warder service of the Presidency are now under the consideration of the Secretary of State and it is hoped that a final decision will not be long delayed. The loyalty and devotion to duty of the jail staff in circumstances of unusual stress and overwork, due to the crowded state of most of the jails during the greater part of the year, are conspicuous.

Civil Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Presidency of Bengal for the year 1915. Statistics of British India, Part VI.—Administrative and Judicial.]

Judicial staff. 136. The permanent Civil Judicial staff employed in the Presidency during 1915 consisted of 15 High Court Judges; 21 District Judges; 6 Additional District Judges; a Chief Judge and 4 Judges of the Presidency Small Cause Court; 3 Provincial Small Cause Court Judges who exercised also the powers of a Subordinate Judge; 43 Subordinate Judges and 235 Munsifs. In addition, 4 executive officers exercised the powers of a Subordinate Judge or Small Cause Court Judge, and 2 the powers of a Munsif.

Including the 4 temporary Additional Judges appointed to the High Court in 1914, in pursuance of section 3 of the Indian High Courts Act, 1911 (1 & 2 Geo. 5, cap. 18), the total number of Judges was 19, as in previous years.

The following changes in the *personnel* of the High Court took place during the year:—

The Hon'ble Sir Lawrence Hugh Jenkins relinquished the office of Chief Justice with effect from the 13th November, 1915. The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Woodroffe performed the duties of Chief Justice till the arrival of the Hon'ble Sir Lancelot Sanderson who assumed the office of Chief Justice on the 20th November, 1915. The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Carnduff died on the 22nd January, 1915. The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Coxe proceeded on furlough from the 19th March, 1915, and resigned his office with effect from the 14th November, 1915. The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Beachcroft continued to act as an Additional Judge till the 17th March, 1915, when he was confirmed as a Judge in the vacancy caused by the death of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Carnduff. The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Walmsley, who first acted as a Judge from the 26th January, 1915, and then as an Additional Judge in the vacancy caused by the confirmation of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Beachcroft, was confirmed with effect from the 15th November, 1915, *vice* the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Coxe, resigned. Mr. Babington Bennett Newbould, who officiated as a Judge from the 25th March, 1915, to the 2nd September, 1915, was appointed as an Additional Judge, *vice* the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Walmsley, confirmed. Mr. Francis Reginald Roe officiated as a Judge from the 29th April, 1915, to the 2nd September, and again from the 30th November, 1915,

till the end of the year, *vice* the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Teunon on leave from the 29th April, 1915.

In addition to the permanent staff, the following temporary appointments in the subordinate courts were sanctioned during the year :—

Temporary Additional District Judges were employed in the following districts :—

One in Faridpur, one in Hooghly and one in Midnapore, from the beginning of the year till the 7th October ; one in the 24-Parganas from the beginning of the year till the 13th July ; one in Bakarganj and one in Dinajpur from the 13th and 30th August, respectively, till the 7th October.

The appointment of an Additional Judge in the Presidency Small Cause Court was continued.

Temporary Additional Subordinate Judges were employed at Chittagong from the beginning of the year till the 7th October ; at Rangpur for 3 months from the 18th January ; at Hooghly, at Nadia, at Jessore, at Bakarganj, and at Rajshahi from the 19th, 21st and 29th April, the 4th May and the 8th July, respectively, till the 7th October.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Original suits.

137. The number of civil suits pending on the original side of the High Court at the end of 1914 was 1,831, including 40 pending suits received by transfer from other courts ; and the number instituted during 1915, was 1,402, including 27 suits received by transfer from other courts, making a total of 3,233 for disposal in 1915. Of the suits instituted during 1915, 924 were for money or moveable property, 129 were mortgage suits, and 78 were for immoveable property. The value of suits for specific money claims was Rs. 1,05,27,247-8-8, as compared with Rs. 95,66,958-4-1 in the previous year. The number of suits decided in 1915 was 1,173, and the number left undisposed of at the end of the year was 2,060. The number of suits under trial was 229 more than at the commencement of the year. There were 1,072 suits pending over one year, showing an increase of 292 on the figures of the previous year.

Of the suits decided 188 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution, 15 were withdrawn with leave, 15 were determined by compromise, 97 were decreed on confession, 405 were decreed *ex parte*, 11 were dismissed *ex parte*, 11 were disposed of by reference to arbitration, 352 were decreed after contest, and 79 were dismissed after contest.

Prize cases.

138. At the commencement of the year, cases against 7 ships and two claims against the cargo of another ship were pending. In regard to 6 out of the 7 ships, orders were made for delivery to the Lords of the Admiralty upon their requisition, and as to the cargo, one claim was disposed of during the year ; the remaining claim against the cargo and the cases against the 7 ships were still pending at the close of the year.

Cases under the extraordinary jurisdiction.

139. At the commencement of the year, 4 suits were pending in the High Court in its extraordinary original civil jurisdiction, and 3 suits were transferred to it during the year. All of them remained pending at the close of the year.

Probates and letters of administration, etc.

140. During the year 474 petitions for probate and letters of administration, and 7,939 interlocutory applications (including applications for the appointment of guardians under the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890, for the appointment of guardians *ad litem*, for the appointment of receivers, for injunctions, for discovery of documents, for execution, etc.), were disposed of. Of the interlocutory applications, those for the appointment of guardians *ad litem*, for the discovery of documents, for special leave to file written statements after time, for summonses as to chamber applications, and for summonses to witnesses, were disposed of by the Registrar and the Master.

The number of such applications was 3,379. The remaining applications (4,560) were disposed of by the Court or a Judge in chambers.

References to take accounts, etc.

141. The number of references to take accounts, to make inquiries as to estates to be administered or partitioned, as to debts and incumbrances, as to allowances to be made for maintenance, on questions of title, on questions affecting minors in proposed terms of settlement, to settle conveyances, etc., pending at the commencement of the year, was 179. Fresh references were directed by the Court in 388 cases. Of the total number of references, 431 were disposed of by the Registrar, the Official Referee and Master and their assistants.

Conveyances and sureties.

142. During the year, the Registrar settled 27 conveyances and inquired into the sufficiency of sureties in 93 cases. The Registrar further inquired into the sufficiency of sureties in 159 matters in which administration bonds were executed.

Appeals from the original jurisdiction.

143. The number of appeals from the original to the appellate side of the court pending at the commencement of 1915 was 78, and 79 new appeals were preferred. Of these appeals, 20 were dismissed for default and 101 were decided; the decrees of the courts of first instance were affirmed in 65 cases, modified in 9 and reversed in 27. Thirty-six appeals remained undecided at the close of the year, of which one had been pending for more than two years.

References from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes.

144. At the commencement of the year five references were pending, and none were made during the year under review. One remained undecided at its close.

Transfers from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes.

145. Twenty-three cases transferred from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes under section 39 of the Presidency Small Cause Court Act, 1882, were pending at the commencement of the year, and during the year 15 applications under that section were made to the High Court for transfer to that court. All the applications were granted. Of the 38 cases for disposal, 7 were decreed after contest, 1 was dismissed after contest, 2 were decreed *ex parte*, 1 was dismissed *ex parte*, 1 was decreed on confession and 1 was withdrawn. The remaining 25 cases were pending at the close of the year. Fourteen applications under section 115 of the Code of Civil Procedure for the calling up of records from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes were pending at the commencement of the year and 18 such applications were made to the High Court during the year. Of these, 3 applications were refused, in 7 cases the rules issued were discharged and in 6 cases the rules issued were made absolute. Sixteen cases were pending at the close of the year.

Insolvency cases.

146. The number of cases, under the old and new Acts, pending in the Insolvency Court at the commencement of the year was 188 and 690, respectively, and the number instituted during the year was 249. Of the 1,127 cases for disposal, 305 were disposed of, the adjudication being set aside or superseded, or the petition being withdrawn or dismissed in 221 cases, and the insolvents obtaining relief in 84. There were also disposed of during the year 1,620 applications of a miscellaneous character.

Duration of sittings.

147. For the hearing of original suits and applications one Judge sat alone for 36 days, two Judges sat separately and simultaneously for 60 days, three Judges sat separately and simultaneously for 116 days, and a special bench consisting of two Judges sat for 3 days. The Insolvent Court engaged the time of one Judge for 18 days. Appeals from the original side occupied a bench of two Judges for 54 days and a bench of three Judges for 34 days.

Appeals to the Privy Council.

148. Eight appeals from the original side were pending from the previous year, and no fresh appeal was admitted during the year. Two of these appeals were disposed of during the year.

Receipts and Expenditure.

149. The receipts and expenditure of the High Court on the original side during 1915 were Rs. 8,91,332-6-11 and Rs. 4,97,075-11-4 respectively.

Taxing Office.

150. The number of bills between party and party taxed during the year was 1,156 and of bills between attorney and client was 418.

The court-fees for taxation during the year amounted to Rs. 24,690-4-0. This sum is also included in the item "Other fees realised by means of stamps."

II—Civil Courts in the mufussal subordinate to the High Court.

Original suits instituted.

151. The number of suits instituted in 1915 was 636,402, an increase of 46,408 on the figures of the previous year. The increase occurred in rent and money suits to the extent of 12·5 and 7·3 per cent., respectively. The number of rent suits instituted was 308,522 against 274,115 in 1914. The total value of suits instituted in 1915 amounted to Rs. 8,18,38,260, showing a decrease of over Rs. 60,00,000 from the total for 1914. The figures of 1914 were abnormal owing to the institution in Burdwan of four title suits of the aggregate value of over a crore.

Local distribution.

152. There was an increase in the number of suits instituted in 1915 in all the districts with the exception of Mymensingh and Bakarganj. The increase was most marked in Faridpur, Jessore, Noakhali and Rangpur. In Faridpur and Noakhali it occurred chiefly in money suits; in Jessore and Rangpur it was conspicuous in rent suits. The largest number of suits was instituted in the district of Mymensingh (55,156), where the number of title suits (6,180) was the heaviest in the province. In no other district did the institutions reach 50,000. In the 24-Parganas, Bakarganj, Dacca and Faridpur institutions were between 40,000 and 50,000. Rent suits were most numerous in Bakarganj (32,578) and money suits in Dacca (30,427). The second place in respect of the institution of rent suits is occupied by the 24-Parganas (23,636). Institutions were between 30,000 and 40,000 in the districts of Tippera, Midnapore, Rangpur and Jessore, and between 20,000 and 30,000 in Chittagong, Noakhali, Hooghly, Dinajpur, Nadia, Murshidabad, Pabna-Bogra and Rajshahi. In Khulna and Burdwan the institutions were between 15,000 and 20,000. Birbhum with 13,112 and Bankura with 11,804 show the lowest figures.

Nature of suits instituted.

153. The majority of suits instituted were, as usual, for small sums as the following figures show:—

		Suits for money and moveables.	Suits under the rent law.	Title and other suits.
	Rs.			
Not exceeding ...	10	16,288	74,592	3,334
	50	114,990	153,416	16,061
	100	63,881	46,882	9,710
	500	66,482	31,341	22,845
Exceeding Rs. 500, or value not stated.		5,664	2,291	8,625
Total ...		267,305	308,522	60,575

In suits for money or moveables 49·1 per cent., and in rent suits 73·9 per cent., were for sums of less than Rs. 50. In suits under the rent law 99·1 per cent. were for realization of arrears of rent. Of the suits classified as title suits, 37·3 per cent. were mortgage suits, 44 per cent. were for immoveable property, and 7 per cent. were for specific relief. The suits which come under this head represent in value more than one-third of the total litigation of the province. Of the 23 suits instituted during the year, which were valued at over a lakh, 22 were title suits and one was a money suit.

Number of suits disposed of and the results of suits decided.

154. In addition to the 636,402 suits instituted during the year and the 168,950 suits pending trial from the previous year, 11,464 suits were revived, or received on remand or review, making a total for disposal of 816,816. The number of suits disposed of was 641,242, an increase of 40,798 on the figures of 1914. Of the total disposed of, 604,534 were disposed of by Munsifs, 18,707 by Subordinate Judges, 17,473 by Small Cause Court Judges, and 528 by District and Additional Judges. The figures show an increase

of disposals in all grades of courts except District and Additional Judges. In the suits disposed of during the year, plaintiffs were unsuccessful in 122,300 cases, or 19 per cent., of which 90,148 were dismissed for default; in 75,516 cases, or 11·8 per cent., a compromise was effected; and plaintiffs were successful in 443,426 cases, or 69·2 per cent. The results are more favourable to plaintiffs than in the preceding year. Of the 118,346 suits decided on contest, 101,846, or 86 per cent., resulted in favour of plaintiffs, and 16,500, or 14 per cent., in favour of defendants.

Applications for retrial.

155. The percentage of applications for retrial to the number of cases which were dismissed for default, or in which decrees were made *ex parte*, was 4·8, the numbers being 20,603 and 424,558, respectively. The applications were successful in as many as 10,116 cases, or 49 per cent.

Suits decided by Munsifs.

156. The number of suits disposed of by Munsifs rose from 565,508 to 604,534, an increase of 39,026. The average number of suits disposed of by each Munsif was 2,427 against 2,298 in 1914. Disposals under the Small Cause Court procedure formed 27·9 per cent. of the total. The number of contested suits disposed of by Munsifs was 110,652, or 18·3 per cent. of the total. The average number of contested suits decided by each Munsif was 444, against 419 in 1914. In suits under the ordinary procedure disposed of by Munsifs, the percentage of those contested was 18·5, and in suits under the Small Cause Court procedure, 17·6.

The number of cases decided by Munsifs under the ordinary procedure shows an increase of 32,857, as compared with 1914.

Suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges and by Small Cause Court Judges.

157. The number of original suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges was 18,707, an increase of 1,193 on the figures of the previous year. The increase was in cases decided both under the ordinary procedure and in the exercise of Small Cause Court powers, and was spread over both contested and uncontested suits. The number of suits decided under the ordinary procedure was 4,868, and under the Small Cause Court procedure 13,839; of these, 33·1 per cent. and 22 per cent., respectively, were contested. The percentage of suits decided after contest under the ordinary procedure shows a sensible decrease, and that of suits decided after contest under the Small Cause Court procedure a slight increase, as compared with the previous year. The provincial Small Cause Courts disposed of 17,473 original suits, of which 2,862 were contested. The latter shows a decrease of 74 as compared with the previous year.

Average duration of suits.

158. The average duration of suits (contested and uncontested) decided by the several grades of courts is given in the following statement :—

		District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	Munsifs.	Small Cause Court Judges.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Under ordinary procedure.	Contested ...	211	431	236	...
	Uncontested ...	176	252	123	...
Under Small Cause Court procedure.	Contested ...	...	79	80	96
	Uncontested ...	...	58	59	56

Except in cases decided by Munsifs under the ordinary procedure, the results show a general improvement.

Pending suits.

159. The number of suits pending at the close of the year was 175,575, against 168,950, in the previous year. The rise in the pending file is chiefly due to larger institutions during the year. Of the pending cases, 5,342 had been pending for more than a year; 55,418 for more than six months, and 40,382 for more than three months. The figures show a marked improvement in the number of suits pending over one year and six months, but an increase in the number pending for more than three months. Of the suits pending over one year, 3,839 were in the courts of Munsifs and 1,503 in the courts of

District and Subordinate Judges, the figures showing a decrease of 1,091 and an increase of 247, respectively, as compared with 1914. The number of suits pending over a year was largest in Mymensingh (1,049); Bakarganj (557); the 24-Parganas (526); and Chittagong (462). In each of these districts the congestion was chiefly in the courts of *Munsifs*. As compared with the figures of the previous year, the number of year-old suits shows an increase in Mymensingh and Chittagong and a decrease in Bakarganj and the 24-Parganas. As usual, the delays were *generally* due to adjournments granted at the request of the parties. Additional assistance was given to those districts where the file appeared to be too heavy for the normal staff.

Execution proceedings.

160. There were 89,571 applications for execution of decrees pending from the previous year, and 423,467 applications were made during the year. Realisation was complete in 107,214 cases and partial in 64,190. In 232,320 cases proceedings were returned as infructuous, and 101,734 remained pending at the close of the year. Execution proceedings were markedly unsuccessful in Dacca, Pabna-Bogra, and Tippera, the percentages of totally infructuous proceedings being 81·5, 68·2 and 63·1, respectively. The results show a perceptible increase in the case of Dacca (from 42·1 to 81·5). The total amount realized in courts other than Small Cause Courts was Rs. 1,57,20,072. Debtors were imprisoned in 135 cases; moveable property was sold in 11,274 and immoveable property in 53,700 cases.

Miscellaneous cases.

161. The number of miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature instituted rose from 70,836 to 71,918. The number disposed of, rose from 71,190 to 73,181 and the number pending, fell from 17,949 to 17,172. Of the cases disposed of, 32,885 were withdrawn, compromised or confessed; 23,228 were decided *ex parte*; and 17,068 were contested. Of the total number of applications disposed of after contest, 49·8 per cent. were granted. Of the pending cases, 112 had been pending more than a year, of which the largest number was in Nadia (19). The miscellaneous cases of a non-judicial nature instituted were 8,395 in number showing a decrease of 3,556. Of these, about two-thirds were applications for the deposit of rent. Disposals numbered 8,226, and the pending file rose from 766 to 937. The number of applications for the deposit of rent was highest in Hooghly (833) followed by the 24-Parganas (708) and Murshidabad (441).

III.—Calcutta Small Cause Court.

Number of suits.

162. The number of suits instituted and decided in the Presidency Court of Small Causes during 1915, and the number pending at its close, were 26,571, 28,197, and 3,353, respectively. Institutions and disposals show an increase of 1,102 and 1,986, respectively, while the number pending was less than in 1914 by 94. Thirty-four applications were filed under section 626 of the Calcutta Municipal Act (Bengal Act III of 1899). The increase in institutions was spread over all classes of suits except those valued at between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000. The total value of the litigation was Rs. 55,37,723, as against Rs. 51,72,178 in the preceding year. The average duration of contested and uncontested suits was 62·7 and 38·8 days, respectively. The figures for 1914 were 53·9 and 37, respectively.

Mode of disposal.

163. Of the 28,197 suits disposed of, 1,790 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution, or were withdrawn with leave, 22,061 were decided without contest in the manner shown in the margin, 4,344 were decided after contest or upon reference to arbitration, and in 2 the plaint was either rejected or returned.

Compromised	...	7,170
Decreed on confession	...	5,238
Decreed *ex parte*	...	9,600
Dismissed *ex parte*	...	53
Total	...	22,061

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Appeals under the Letters Patent.

164. Seventy-nine appeals under section 15 of the Letters Patent were filed during the year, and 78 were pending at its commencement. Of the total, 121 were decided and 36 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of appeals disposed of was 14 more than in 1914. Of the

number undecided one was pending for more than two years. Ninety-three appeals were filed during the year, and 127 were pending at its commencement. Of these, 81 were decided, and 136 remained pending at the close of the year.

II.—Appeals from the Subordinate Civil Courts.

Appeals to the High Court from Subordinate Courts.

165. The statement in the margin shows the number of first and second appeals from the decrees and orders of the provincial courts as courts of original and appellate jurisdiction, respectively, which came before the High Court and were decided during the year. The figures include appeals from the courts of Assam. The institutions of first and second appeals from decrees and orders were, respectively, 45, 49, 210 and 28 less than in 1914.

	Pending at the end of 1914.	Preferred.	Decided.	Pending at the end of 1915.
First Appeals.				
From decrees	879	320	222	977
From orders	592	175	174	593
Second Appeals.				
From decrees	4,210	2,547	2,356	4,401
From orders	191	118	116	193
Total ...	5,872	3,160	2,868	6,164

Appeals pending.

166. At the close of the year, 1,570 first appeals were pending, of which 977 were from decrees and 593 from orders; and 4,594 second appeals, of which 4,401 were from decrees. The total is more than the number pending at the close of 1914 by 292.

Result of appeals.

167. Of the 222 appeals from original decrees decided, 75 were uncontested, being dismissed on default, withdrawn or compromised. The result of the appeals decided after contest was that the decrees of the Lower Courts were confirmed in 85 cases, reversed in 34, and varied in 13, while 15 cases were remanded. Of the 2,356 appeals from appellate decrees decided, 95 were uncontested, and 882 were dealt with under Order XLI, rule 11, of the Civil Procedure Code. One thousand three hundred and seventy-nine were heard and determined, with the result that 980 decrees of the Lower Courts were affirmed, 186 reversed and 22 varied, while 191 cases were remanded. Of the 290 appeals from orders decided, 37 were uncontested, 51 were dealt with under Order XLI, rule 11, of the Civil Procedure Code, and 202 were decided after trial with the result that 108 orders of the Lower Courts were affirmed, 53 reversed and 6 varied, 35 cases being remanded. The following table shows the results of appeals decided by the High Court as affecting District Judges and Subordinate Judges :—

	Affirmed.		Modified or reversed.	
	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.
Appeals from original decrees	36	49	19	28
Appeals from appellate ,,	429	551	100	108
Miscellaneous appeals ...	60	48	40	19

Appeals to the Privy Council (including figures of Bihar and Orissa and Assam).

168. At the opening of the year 87 appeals to the Privy Council were under preparation for despatch to England, and 186 were pending for orders. Sixty-seven new appeals were filed during the year. Of the total for disposal, 64 were struck off or compromised, 27 were despatched to England, and 249 appeals were pending at the close of the year—5 of 1912, 18 of 1913, 168 of 1914 and 58 of 1915. Of the pending appeals 87 were under preparation for despatch to England at the close of the year.

Results of appeals to the Privy Council.

169. The results of 4 appeals to the Privy Council were received during the year. The decisions of the High Court were affirmed in 2 instances and reversed in 2.

III.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Appeals instituted.

170. Seventeen thousand three hundred and two appeals were instituted in 1915, a decrease, as compared with the previous year, of 1,011. The decrease in appellate work contrasts with the large increase in the number of suits disposed of by the subordinate courts. Of the appeals instituted, 8,074 were in title suits, 7,146 in rent suits, and 2,082 in suits for money or moveables. The numbers show a decrease in the institution of appeals of all classes. The number of appeals valued at sums below Rs. 10 and between Rs. 10 and Rs. 50 was 1,753 and 5,554, respectively. The total value of the appeals instituted in the subordinate courts was Rs. 29,73,565, being less than the total of 1914 by over two-and-a-half lakhs of rupees. The number of cases in which an appeal lay, decided by subordinate courts, was 75,317, and the proportion of appeals instituted to appealable decisions, excluding appeals from decisions of revenue officers, was 21·3 per cent., as against 24·2 in 1914. The highest percentages were 29·5 in Nadia, 29·1 in Chittagong, 27·7 in Khulna, 27·2 in Hooghly, and 26·6 in Jessore; and the lowest were in Dinajpur (10), Faridpur (12·1) and Rangpur (12·9). The number of appeals instituted was smaller than in the previous year in 15 districts and larger in 6. The largest decreases were in Midnapore (278), Chittagong (236), Birbhum (224), Hooghly (197), Dacca (192), Faridpur (174), and the 24-Parganas (114), while the noticeable increases were in Nadia (246), Mymensingh (193), Murshidabad (130), and Dinajpur (110). In the remaining districts the variations were less than 100.

Appeals disposed of.

171. The number of appeals decided (17,614) was more by 248 than in 1914. The increase in disposals was in the courts of District and Additional Judges, while in those of Subordinate Judges there was a decrease of 196, as compared with the previous year. The number of appeals disposed of after contest (14,281) was 99 less than in 1914. The increase in disposals was spread over 10 districts and was greatest in Midnapore (432) and Nadia (337). The increase in Midnapore and Nadia was mainly due to additional assistance given to those districts during the year. There were noticeable decreases, on the other hand, in Noakhali (686) and Dacca (325). The falling off in disposals in Noakhali is due partly to the District Judge being able to devote less time to civil work, partly to the fact that a large number of analogous appeals was decided in that district in the previous year, and partly because there was no longer an Additional Subordinate Judge working in the district during the year. In Dacca the decline in disposals is due to the inability of the District and Additional Judges to devote as much time to civil work as in the previous year, and to the smaller outturn of the Subordinate Judges. The explanations given, where there has been a decline in disposals, have been considered by the High Court in reviewing the district reports.

Appeals pending.

172. There were 17,011 appeals pending at the close of the year, the number being 177 more than at the end of 1914. The number of appeals pending for more than one year increased from 2,225 to 2,426. The number was largest in Midnapore (474). A permanent Additional Judge for Midnapore and Burdwan has recently been appointed.

Results of appeals.

173. The result on the decision of the Lower Courts of the appeals decided during the year was as follows:—In 9,311 cases, or 52·9 per cent. of the whole, the judgment of the Lower Court was affirmed; in 2,113 cases, or 12 per cent., it was modified; and in 2,908 cases, or 16·5 per cent., it was reversed. Eight hundred and thirteen appeals, or 4·6 per cent., were remanded, and 2,469, or 14 per cent., were either not prosecuted or dismissed for default. The results are less favourable to the Lower Courts than in the preceding year.

General.

174. There was a very large increase in the number of original suits instituted in the mufassal courts. The arrears consequently rose in spite of a substantial increase in the outturn of work. A satisfactory reduction,

however, was effected in the number of suits pending over one year. The appellate file was marked by a decrease in institutions, but, although the disposals increased, the pending file and the number of year-old appeals rose slightly, owing to the heavy arrears outstanding from the previous year. Excluding the cases pertaining to Bihar and Orissa, the institutions and disposals on the Appellate side of the High Court were less than in 1914, and there was a slight rise in the pending file.

Inspection.

175. The courts of 15 Subordinate and Small Cause Court Judges and 86 Munsifs were inspected by District and Additional District Judges.

Receipts and charges of the Civil Courts.

176. The receipts of the Civil Courts in Bengal and of the High Court in respect of the entire area under its jurisdiction during the year, amounted to Rs. 1,32,27,089, an increase of Rs. 1,92,932 on those of the previous year, and the charges to Rs. 61,34,229, an increase of Rs. 82,600 on those of 1914. Inclusive of the amount realised on account of duty* on probates, etc., there was a profit to the Government from civil litigation of Rs. 70,92,860, or Rs. 1,10,332 more than in 1914, and exclusive of the item referred to, the surplus amounted to Rs. 59,04,560.

	Rs.
In the High Court ...	9,53,922(a)
In other courts ...	2,34,378(a)
Total ...	11,88,300*

(a) The figures are for the financial year 1915-16.

CIVIL JUSTICE IN THE SCHEDULED DISTRICT OF THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS.

Chittagong Hill Tracts.

177. The total number of suits instituted during 1915 in the Civil Courts in the Scheduled District of the Chittagong Hill Tracts was 521. The suits were for money or moveable property. The total number of civil suits for disposal was 618. Of these suits, 56 were contested and 205 were disposed of without trial. The number pending at the close of the year was 50. The number of miscellaneous cases was 1,742. Of these 1,353 were decreed *ex parte* and 320 were pending at the close of the year. The total number of appeals from decrees was 55, and the number disposed of was 54. Seventeen miscellaneous appeals were preferred, of which one only remained pending at the close of the year. Nine hundred and seventy-nine applications were made for execution of decrees, of which 164 were pending at the end of the year.

Registration.

[Statistical Returns of the Registration Department in the Presidency of Bengal for the year 1915. Statistics of British India, Part II.—Commercial; Part VI.—Administrative and Judicial.]

Registration.

178. Four offices were opened in the year under review, viz., at Moyna in the district of Midnapore, at Parbatipur in the district of Dinajpur, at Dhunat in the district of Bogra and at Jamalpur in the district of Mymensingh. There were 402 offices at the end of 1915 against 398 at the end of 1914. The total number of registrations in books 1, 3 and 4, increased from 1,525,613 in 1914 to 1,638,117 in 1915, *i.e.*, by 7·3 per cent. The total income of the Department increased from Rs. 18,89,041 in 1914 to Rs. 19,33,588 in 1915, *i.e.*, by 2·3 per cent. The total expenditure decreased from Rs. 10,69,777 in 1914 to Rs. 10,49,653 in 1915, *i.e.*, by 1·8 per cent.

The total number of registrations increased in all the districts of the Burdwan Division. The increases in the districts of Burdwan, Birbhum and Bankura, viz., 24·5 per cent., 30·7 per cent. and 28·7 per cent., respectively, were remarkable and were due mainly to the registration of a larger number of deeds of sale and mortgage due to the effects of the floods of 1913 in Burdwan and to the distress caused by failure of crops in Bankura and Birbhum.

The total number of registrations increased in all the districts of the Presidency Division except Jessore, where it was practically stationary, being 1·7 per cent. less than in the previous year. The largest percentage of increase, viz., 26·2 per cent. was in the district of the 24-Parganas due to a

large number of mortgage deeds and promissory notes consequent on the indifferent crops of 1914. The increase of 17 per cent. in Murshidabad was due to a similar cause.

The only district in the Dacca Division, in which the total number of registrations decreased in 1915, was Bakarganj. The bulk of the total decrease in this district (5·5 per cent.) was contributed by noticeable decreases in the numbers of mortgages and of leases (both perpetual and for terms of years) registered. The poverty of the people caused them to abstain from taking fresh settlements of lands on payment of premium, and this led to decreases in leases of both kinds. In the districts of Dacca and Faridpur the total number of registrations increased by 14·3 per cent. and 19·7 per cent., respectively. The figures indicate that the dislocation of trade caused by the sudden fall in the prices of jute in 1914, disappeared with an improvement in the prices. Mymensingh showed no remarkable variations in the total number of registrations.

Registrations fell off in 1915 in each of the three districts of the Chittagong Division. In the districts of Chittagong and Tippera, the decreases were small, but the district of Noakhali showed a decrease of 13·2 per cent. Extensive floods occurred in the districts of Noakhali and Tippera, resulting in much distress among the agriculturists and preventing business from returning to its normal condition, after the peculiar situation introduced by the outbreak of the war in the middle of 1914.

The total number of registrations increased in all the districts of the Rajshahi Division, except Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling, viz., 18·4 per cent. in Rajshahi, 16·9 per cent. in Dinajpur, 5·4 per cent. in Rangpur, 19·3 per cent. in Bogra, 25·5 per cent. in Pabna, and 6·1 per cent. in Malda. In Rajshahi the increase was due to the failure of the rice crop and in Dinajpur and Bogra to the high prices of food-grains and to the opening of new offices. The high percentage of increase in the district of Pabna was due to the distressed condition of the people on account of the extraordinary conditions caused by the war.

Working of the Marriage Act III of 1872.

179. Thirty-five marriages were registered during the calendar year 1915 under the Marriage Act III of 1872. Seventeen of these marriages were included in the 36 marriages which were reported last year to have been registered during the financial year 1914-15. Out of these 35 marriages, 24 were registered in Calcutta, 2 in Dacca, 2 in Howrah, 2 in Mymensingh and 1 each in Bakarganj, Chittagong, Tippera, Bogra and Hooghly. Of the 48 Marriage Registrars under the Act, only 11 Marriage Registrars and 1 *ex-officio* Marriage Registrar registered marriages during the year. The ages of the bridegrooms ranged from 21 to 41 and those of the brides from 14 to 30 years. Only one widow aged 21 was remarried.

Working of the Muhammadan Marriage Registration Act and the Kazi's Act.

180. Bengal Act I of 1876 (an Act for the Voluntary Registration of Muhammadan Marriages and Divorces) continued to be in force in 26 districts in this Presidency. There were 277 registration offices open at the end of the calendar year 1915 against 272 at the end of 1914. Seven new offices were opened during the year, 1 in each of the districts of the 24-Parganas, Jessore, Dacca, Faridpur and Noakhali and 2 in the district of Mymensingh. Two offices were abolished in the district of Malda and their jurisdictions were amalgamated with that of another Muhammadan Registry office. Registration took place in 266 offices and no work was done in the remaining 11 offices. The total number of ceremonies registered decreased by 13·8 per cent. as compared with the preceding year, the figures being 56,644 and 65,759, respectively. The largest decrease occurred in the Chittagong Division. The decreases are due to the distressed condition of the people on account of floods. The total receipts of the Muhammadan Marriage Registrars and Kazis, including gratuities, amounted to Rs. 1,13,891, against Rs. 1,30,626, showing a decrease of 12·8 per cent.

Working of the Indian Companies Act, 1913 (VII of 1913).

181. The number of registered companies at the close of the year was 1,023 with a total nominal capital of Rs. 98,75,79,000 and a paid-up capital of Rs. 33,12,56,137 showing a considerable increase over the figures for the previous year which were 970 companies with Rs. 93,89,22,000 nominal and Rs. 30,57,57,779 paid up capital. Eighty-six new companies were registered during the year against 73 in the previous year. Of these 69 were limited

by shares, 2 by guarantee, and 15 were registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (XXI of 1860). Two hundred and twenty-nine companies increased and 4 reduced their capital during the year, the respective figures being 263 and 5 in 1914-15. Twenty-five companies ceased to work, went into liquidation, were finally dissolved or otherwise became defunct during the year, against 66 so classified in the previous year. The decrease is more apparent than real and was due chiefly to the action taken during 1914-15 under section 247 of the Act by which many companies which had been inoperative for years were removed from the register. The total amount of fees realized from all sources was Rs. 35,847-11 being Rs. 926-13, more than in the preceding year.

Four auditor's certificates were granted under the provisions of section 144 of the Act thus raising the total number of certificates in force during the year to 32. Of these the holders of 27 certificates were entitled to undertake audits within this Presidency only, while the holders of the remaining 5 were empowered to conduct them throughout British India.

It is to be regretted that many companies still show great reluctance and procrastination in complying with the provisions of the Act. Fifty-one prosecutions had to be conducted during the year of which 19 ended in conviction, 3 in discharge, 8 were withdrawn and 21 remained pending at the end of the year.

Working of the Provident Insurance Societies Act, (V of 1912).

182. There were 85 registered Provident Insurance Societies at the close of the year. Of these 22 were in the course of liquidation and with 12, the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies was dealing under the provisions of section 247 of the Indian Companies Act, 1913, these societies having been originally registered under the Companies Act. The state of affairs in many of the societies is far from satisfactory, but the enforcement of the provisions of the Act is effecting improvement.

Municipal Department and Local Self-Government.

MUNICIPALITIES OUTSIDE CALCUTTA.

Reports from the Commissioners of Divisions on the working of Municipalities in the Bengal Presidency (except Calcutta) during the year 1915-16. Statistics of British India, Part VIII.—Local Funds.]

Powers of Municipalities.

183. In order that Municipal Boards should enjoy the fullest measure of financial independence permissible under the law, all municipalities, except those in which maladministration had shown that such a concession could not safely be allowed, were given a free hand in framing their budgets, the Commissioners of Divisions being required only to see that the law, statutory rules and Government orders are complied with and that due provision is made for the necessary minimum closing balance and for the service of municipal loans.

Number of Municipalities and revision of boundaries.

184. The number of municipalities increased from 111 to 112, in consequence of the partition of the Serampore Municipality into the separate municipalities of Serampore and Rishra-Konnagar. The partition of the South Barrackpore Municipality was also sanctioned, but did not take effect during the year. The limits of the North Barrackpore, Navadwip and Netrokona Municipalities were reduced by the exclusion of rural areas.

Elections.

185. The right to elect Municipal Commissioners was given to nine municipalities in which they had hitherto been appointed by Government, viz., Budge-Budge, Cox's Bazar, Darjeeling, Dhulian, Jhalakati, Narayanganj, Netrokona, Patuakhali and Rangpur. After the close of the year 11 municipalities were given the right to elect their Chairmen, the number of municipal towns in which Government appoints the Chairmen being consequently reduced to 14. In the important municipality of Howrah, where the Magistrate has hitherto been elected Chairman, a non-official was elected to the Chairmanship.

General elections were held in 64 municipalities and the majority were contested. A significant instance of the democratic leaven at work under the representative system is that a Muchi and a Chandal were elected Commissioners in one municipality. There was a noticeable growth of interest in

municipal elections and an equally noticeable tendency to resort to litigation, one-sixth of the elections being the subject of civil suits.

An interesting development of the elective system was the adoption, at the general elections held in the Kotrung, Serampore and Rishra-Konnagar Municipalities of a system of secret voting, which was first tried experimentally in 1913-14 at a bye-election at Kotrung in order to prevent candidates interfering with the liberty of the voters.

Number of meetings and attendance of Commissioners.

186. Altogether 123 meetings failed for want of a quorum, and seven municipalities failed to hold at least one meeting a month. There was a good average of attendance throughout the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions.

Number of ratepayers.

187. The number of ratepayers decreased from 318,099 to 317,722. The precentage of ratepayers to the population residing within municipal limits averaged 16·11 and varied in individual towns from 35·8 in Bogra to 3·5 in the mill-town of Titagarh.

Assessment and taxation.

188. There was no change in the methods of taxation in force. A water rate was imposed for the first time in Khulna, and in a few cases the provisions of section IX of the Bengal Municipal Act were extended to new areas on the request of the municipalities concerned. The average incidence of taxation per head fell from Rs. 2-6-10 to Rs. 2-3-10. As in previous years it was highest in Darjeeling, viz., Rs. 8-0-8. In the plains it varied from Rs. 6-9 per head in Cossipore-Chitpur to 5 annas 4 pies in Baduria.

Revision of assessment.

189. A general revision of assessment was effected in 24 municipalities, and in other cases the revision made in the previous year took effect during the year under review. The revisions resulted in every case in an increase of income, the enhancement being greatest in Chittagong (Rs. 19,798). Only two municipalities, Bhatpara and Kalna, took the opportunity of reassessment to enhance the rate of taxation, while in Bally, where the revision of assessment resulted in a considerable increase of revenue, the Commissioners proceeded to reduce it by lowering the rate on holdings from 7½ per cent. to 6 per cent. The appeals against revision were numerous. It took two years to dispose of them in Burdwan, and nearly a year in Rampur-Boalia, where they numbered 2,932.

Collections.

190. The total collections rose from Rs. 42,20,568 to Rs. 43,01,670 or 3 lakhs above the figure recorded in 1913-14. There was, however, a decrease in the percentage of collections on current demand, which represented 95·33 per cent. as against 96·03 per cent. in the preceding year. In twenty municipalities owing to the realization of previous arrears, the collections were in excess of the current demand, the ratio in Halishahar rising to the abnormal figures of 126·7 per cent. The least successful of the larger municipalities was Rampur-Boalia, where only 73·7 per cent. of the current demand was realized.

There was an increase in the total remissions from Rs. 1,56,742 to Rs. 1,80,578, their percentage on current demand rising from 3·5 per cent. to 4 per cent. Three municipalities remitted a percentage of 10 per cent. and the small municipalities of Dhulian and Debhatta nearly one-fifth.

The outstanding balances rose from Rs. 3,35,821 to Rs. 3,63,755. They exceeded Rs. 5,000 in the case of 17 municipalities, and were noticeably large in Dacca, Rampur-Boalia, Hooghly-Chinsura and Serampore. In Cossipore-Chitpur, Jossore and South Dum-Dum, they were partly due to unsettled claims against public bodies. The Burdwan municipality entirely failed to reduce an abnormal balance of over Rs. 35,000, which for the last two years has been attributed to delay in disposing of the appeals against the revision of assessment in 1914-15. An outstanding balance of Rs. 10,311 in Berhampore was due to the collections having been impeded by the prosecution of practically the whole of the collecting staff for embezzlement.

Income and expenditure.

191. The total receipts including opening balances amounted to Rs. 82,94,648 as against Rs. 93,64,841 during the previous year. This large decrease is due to the fact that the total for 1914-15 included the proceeds of the sale of Government securities, to the value of Rs. 8,00,000, by the Howrah Municipality, as well as a loan to the same municipality of Rs. 4,34,000, whereas its only receipt under either head, during the year

1915-1916, was a loan of Rs. 1,00,000. The total actual income, excluding opening balance and receipts under "Extraordinary and Debt," decreased by Rs. 2,21,514 and amounted to Rs. 54,06,316. The amount of Government loans fell from Rs. 5,82,000 to Rs. 1,78,000, but there was an increase of Rs. 98,458 in the total receipts from rates and taxes, and of Rs. 15,029 in revenue derived from other municipal property and powers apart from taxation.

The total expenditure declined from Rs. 72,18,133 to Rs. 66,35,636. The decrease was entirely under the heads "Extraordinary and Debt" and is mainly accounted for by a decrease of over five lakhs in Savings Bank investments by the Howrah Municipality. Actual current expenditure amounted to Rs. 57,97,859 as against Rs. 57,52,157 during the previous year, and it is apparent that though no new capital expenditure was possible, the ordinary current activities of the towns were sustained.

Closing balances.

192. The closing balances which had increased by about 3 lakhs in the last two years fell from Rs. 21,46,708 to Rs. 16,59,012. Only three municipalities retained closing balances of over one lakh, viz., Howrah (Rs. 1,86,484), Narayanganj (Rs. 1,09,891) and Cossipore-Chitpur (Rs. 1,02,812). The greater part of the larger balances consisted of funds earmarked for schemes of improvement, such as drainage or water-supply, and in many cases was made up of unspent Government grants given for projects which it was not possible to proceed with owing to the rise in the cost of materials.

INCOME.

Taxes on houses and lands.

193. There was an increase of Rs. 43,384 due to revision of assessment in certain municipalities and to larger collections in Howrah; the increase was confined to the Burdwan, Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions. A decrease of Rs. 18,808 in Cossipore-Chitpur is attributed to non-payment of taxes claimed from the Calcutta Corporation.

Tax on animals and vehicles.

194. This tax yielded an increase of Rs. 8,225, which more than makes up for the falling off of the previous year, which was ascribed to a failure of cart traffic consequent on dullness in the jute trade.

Tax on professions and trades.

195. The receipts under this head rose by Rs. 2,446: the only noticeable feature is an increase in the collections by the Rangpur Municipality from Rs. 277 to Rs 3,156 on receipt of the Commissioner's sanction to the rates of fees for jute godowns.

Tolls on roads and ferries.

196. Receipts under this head in the Dacca and Rajshahi Divisions, which fell heavily during the previous year, recovered partially; but a falling off in the other Divisions, especially Presidency and Burdwan, resulted in a net decrease of Rs. 2,902.

Water-rate.

197. There was an increase of Rs. 20,878, due partly to the levy of a water-rate for the first time in Khulna, and to the fact that the water-rate was realised for the whole year in Hooghly-Chinsura, where it was only collected for three quarters of the previous year, during which the water-works first came into working. The balance of the increase was due to better collections, especially in Howrah, Mymensingh and Jessore. A decrease of Rs. 9,685 in Cossipore-Chitpur is attributed to remissions on account of railway holdings.

Lighting rate.

198. There was a decrease of Rs. 4,110, the net result of a decrease of Rs. 7,213 in Cossipore-Chitpur, attributed to remissions for railway holdings, and of an increase of Rs. 3,000 in Howrah.

Conservancy.

199. Receipts rose by Rs. 21,829. An increase of over Rs. 30,000 in the Burdwan, Rajshahi and Dacca Divisions more than counterbalanced a decrease in the Presidency Division, where it was due mainly to remission of taxes in Cossipore-Chitpur, and in the Chittagong Division, where it was due to reduction of the latrine rate.

Tax on persons.

200. There was an increase of Rs 4,869, notwithstanding the abolition of the tax in some wards of the Rampur-Boalia and Nator Municipalities.

Realizations under Special Acts.

201. There was a decrease of Rs. 2,370, which calls for no remarks. Fees under the Hackney Carriage Act were levied for the first time in Bogra.

Revenue from municipal property and powers other than taxation.

202. An increase of Rs. 15,029 was shared by all Divisions. The Burdwan Municipality obtained an addition of Rs. 8,745 in receipts from educational institutions, which is attributed largely to the school fees obtained from a branch municipal school which has been recently established. The amount of fines realised decreased slightly, and the small total of Rs. 40,879 under this head, of which Rs. 13,604 was realised in one municipality seems to indicate lack of energy in the prosecution of municipal offences.

Grants and contributions.

203. There was a decrease under this head of Rs. 3,48,256, due mainly to a reduction of the Government grants on account of the financial stringency arising out of war conditions.

There was a slight increase in private contributions, and the following instances of liberality deserve special mention. Suri received a contribution of Rs. 25,000 from Raja Satya Niranjan Chakarvarty of Hetampur towards the Suri Water-works. Berhampore received a donation of Rs. 23,097, the bulk of which was contributed by Raja Rao Jogendra Narayan Bahadur of Lalgola for the charitable hospital and the Khagra burning ghât. Babu Raj Krishna Ghose gave Rs. 2,000 to the Bhatpara Municipality for a female bathing ghât, Babu Profulla Nath Tagore made over land of the value of Rs. 1,500 to the Baranagar Municipality for the drainage works, and Babu Hari Charan Guha gave Rs. 1,292 to the Bally Municipality for a road. Generous contributions were made to Bhadreswar by the Victoria and Shamnagar North Jute Mills for the construction of roads in the mill bustees, and the Managing Agents of the Empire Jute Mills granted Rs. 4,000 to Titagarh for improvement of the drainage. There was a decrease in contributions from local funds, the greater part of which were made for medical purposes. Barisal received Rs. 5,000 from the District Board towards the water-works, and Dacca Rs. 6,600 from the Dacca Electric Light Trust Fund for the better lighting of the town.

EXPENDITURE.

Office establishment and collection charges.

204. Expenditure on this account increased by Rs. 45,683 and its percentage on the total expenditure from 7·9 per cent. to 8·1 per cent. This increase is chiefly due to the establishment charges of Howrah, which rose by over Rs. 45,000, more than half of this amount being due to an increase in charges for survey. The percentage of expenditure on this account varied from 20·08 in North Dum-Dum to 3·8 in Berhampore. Other towns which appear to have exercised commendable economy are Katwa and Barisal with percentages of 4·1 and 4·4 respectively. The low percentage of 3·9 in Chittagong is due to the pay of the Secretary-Engineer being debited under another head.

Prevention of fire.

205. The bulk of the expenditure consists of contributions by suburban municipalities to the Calcutta Fire Brigade. There was an increase of Rs. 1,357 in Darjeeling which is the only town with an organised fire brigade outside Calcutta.

Lighting.

206. There was an increase of Rs. 39,125 under this head. In Darjeeling alone there was an increase of over Rs. 24,000, incurred for the most part in capital outlay on the existing electric power works and a new hydro-electric scheme. In Dacca electric lighting was extended to certain streets with the help of the grant from the Electric Light Trust Fund. The increase in other municipalities is attributed rather to the increase in the cost of materials, such as oil and glass chimneys, than to any improvement in lighting. A decrease in the expenditure in the Dacca Division was caused by the fact that the Narayanganj Municipality had to substitute kerosene for petrol lamps through inability to procure mantles. The municipalities of North Barrackpore and South Barrackpore spent nothing on lighting.

Water-supply.

207. There was an increase of Rs. 1,66,670 in expenditure on water-supply. Of this increase Rs. 1,34,327 was incurred on account of capital works, expenditure on which had fallen by five lakhs during the previous year, and Rs. 32,343 in maintenance and repairs. Of the total expenditure on capital works (Rs. 5,39,752), a sum of Rs. 2,09,566 was spent on the

construction of water-works at Chittagong, which have since been opened, and Rs. 1,93,373 on the extension of the Howrah water-works, the completion of which has been delayed through the inability of Government to make the full loan promised. The only water-works scheme completed during the year was that of the Bankura Municipality. Other capital works of minor importance were the extension of the water-pipes in Burdwan and Cossipore-Chitpur, the repair of the water-works engine at Berhampore, improvements to the Barisal water-works, and the re-excavation of a tank in Pabna at a cost of Rs. 6,392.

The largest of the schemes under consideration was the Riparian Municipalities Water-works Scheme, which is intended for the supply of water to municipalities on the east bank of the Hooghly north of Calcutta. Representatives of the municipalities concerned were invited to confer on a revised scheme prepared by the Sanitary Engineer at an estimated cost of Rs. 35 lakhs.

The final approval of Government was given to water-works schemes for Dacca (Rs. 1,80,000), Nator Rs. 67,000, Satkhira (Rs. 51,793) and Chandpur (Rs. 1,26,000). It was not possible to start work on any of these schemes during the year, but the Satkhira Municipality, to which Government had already given a grant, has since been able to make a beginning with its project. In other cases the schemes depend for their execution on the receipt of grants and loans from Government, which it was not possible to make on account of financial stringency. At the same time, the estimates require revision in view of the increase of prices, and thus involve reconsideration of the financial proposals on which the schemes were sanctioned.

Sketch projects for the water-supply of Krishnagar, Raniganj and Suri received the approval of Government during the year and detailed estimates were called for. Important schemes of water-supply for Asansol, Midnapore and Murshidabad were under the consideration of the Municipal Commissioners in consultation with the Sanitary Engineer. Experiments in the sinking of a well in the bed of the Cossye and in pumping at Midnapore gave satisfactory results, and the Sanitary Engineer drew up a scheme, which has been submitted to the Municipal Commissioners since the close of the year.

Drainage. 208. There was a net decrease of Rs. 3,61,221 in expenditure on drainage, though expenditure on establishment and maintenance increased from Rs. 1,44,683 to Rs. 1,64,298. The heavy net decrease is due to the fact that expenditure on capital works in Howrah was less by Rs. 3,68,896 than during the preceding year. The bulk of the capital outlay was incurred in the Burdwan Division. The drainage scheme of the Bankura Municipality was completed during the year. Sums of over Rs. 25,000 each were spent by the Burdwan and Katwa Municipalities. In Bhadreswar a surface scheme for part of the municipality was completed at a cost of Rs. 21,627. and the Commissioners now propose to take in hand another block of the scheme. Various small works were carried on or initiated, but the only new scheme of any importance with which a beginning is reported to have been made is the Bharpara drainage scheme in Howrah. Two larger schemes were under the consideration of Government during the year. The Bagjola scheme for the drainage of municipalities to the north of Calcutta was considered by the Sanitary Board in consultation with the Chairmen of the Calcutta Corporation and the local municipalities and other officers concerned, and in view of the sanitary objections to it, it was decided not to proceed further with the scheme in its present form. A combined project for sewerage and surface drainage in Rampur-Boalia, at an estimated capital cost of Rs. 1,46,000, was prepared by the Sanitary Engineer during the year. Drainage schemes are reported to be pending with the municipalities of Hooghly-Chinsurah, Kamarhati, Budge-Budge and Comilla among others, and have not yet materialized owing to the difficulty of formulating satisfactory financial proposals.

Conservancy. 209. An increase of Rs. 41,681 was contributed to by the municipality of Howrah and the three divisions of Eastern Bengal. A considerable saving was effected in the cost of the conservancy staff at Asansol without any reduction of its efficiency.

Sanitary Officers.

210. This is the first year in which expenditure on Sanitary Officers has been entered under a separate head. The Sanitary Officers Act (II of 1914) was brought into force during the year by notifications prescribing the sanitary staff to be entertained by all municipalities. Expenditure on this account was incurred, however, by only 36 municipalities during the year.

Hospitals and Dispensaries and plague charges.

211. There was an increase of expenditure amounting to Rs. 37,348. The Dwarika Nath Charitable Dispensary at Tangail, which had hitherto been under private maintenance, was placed in charge of the municipality. An increase of Rs. 19,004 in expenditure by Berhampore was due to the addition to the Charitable Hospital of a new outdoor dispensary, with the help of private generosity.

Public Works.

212. Expenditure under this head increased by Rs. 36,412. There was an increase of Rs. 41,738 on roads, and of Rs. 3,121 on establishment, and a decrease under the sub-heads "Stores," and "Buildings." Expenditure on roads increased in the Burdwan, Dacca and Rajshahi Divisions. The percentage of outlay on public works ranged from 46·2 in Taki to 4·1 in Kortrung and Kurseong, in the latter of which the roads are maintained by the Public Works Department. In twenty municipalities more than a quarter of the total expenditure was on account of public works.

Public Instruction.

213. Educational expenditure rose by Rs. 13,203, and it is observed that the whole of the increase was devoted to secondary rather than primary education. The major portion of the increase is due to expenditure on colleges and high schools in Burdwan, Midnapore and Maniktolla. The expenditure on primary schools decreased from Rs. 1,08,328 to Rs. 88,567. Twenty-two municipalities spent over 5 per cent. of their income on primary education. The percentage was highest in Jhalakati (21·8 per cent.) and Debhata (16·7) and varied elsewhere from 8·7 in Cox's Bazar to less than 2 per cent. in Howrah, Midnapore, Burdwan and Darjeeling, while the extremely low figure of ·06 was reached in Dinajpur.

Loans.

214. Thirty-nine municipalities were in debt to Government at the end of the year, the total amount of their outstanding liabilities on the 31st March 1916 being Rs. 45,36,292 in addition to Rs. 12,600 due from Burdwan and Bally for loans taken from other sources. The largest outstanding loan liabilities were those of Howrah (Rs. 24,51,828), Dacca (Rs. 2,73,681), Hooghly-Chinsura (Rs. 1,78,031), Narayanganj (Rs. 1,25,161) and Chittagong (Rs. 1,10,000). Four municipalities took loans during the year, viz., Howrah (Rs. 1,00,000 for water-supply), Chittagong (Rs. 60,000 for water-supply), Barisal (Rs. 13,000 for water-supply) and Bankura (Rs. 5,000 for sanitary works). The Berhampore and Bansbaria Municipalities liquidated their loans.

Outstanding liabilities on account of current bills.

215. At the end of the financial year, 80 municipalities had outstanding liabilities on account of current bills, amounting to Rs. 2,17,576, which represented 5·7 per cent. of their current demand. In 16 municipalities the outstanding liabilities exceeded the closing balance. The tendency to incur liabilities beyond annual means was marked in the Rajshahi Division, where the liabilities exceeded the closing balances in five municipalities, notably Pabna and Rampur-Boalia with outstanding liabilities of Rs. 5,664 and Rs. 4,173, respectively, against closing balances of Rs. 1,839 and Rs. 1,796.

Audit of accounts and embezzlement.

216. No financial irregularities were discovered during the year in the Rajshahi and Dacca Divisions. Elsewhere the usual tale of dishonesty among subordinates and laxity of supervision repeats itself. The audit of the accounts of Berhampore brought to light a systematic embezzlement, which necessitated a special audit of the accounts from 1912 to 1915. A large sum of Municipal money had been gradually embezzled for some years by the collecting staff, practically all of whom were involved in the fraud. Eight persons were prosecuted and sentenced; and the municipality is being required to pay the cost of the special audit. Embezzlements by the collecting staff were also discovered in Basirhat, South Barrackpore, Satkhira, Netrokona and Tamluk.

Howrah.

217. The current demand on account of taxes rose from Rs. 9,79,935 to Rs. 9,95,273, and the total demand amounted to Rs. 10,47,669, of which 92·5 per cent. was collected against 91·5 per cent. in the previous year. The

total ordinary income rose from Rs. 10,49,825 to Rs. 10,83,028, while the total ordinary expenditure fell from Rs. 13,68,749 to Rs. 12,06,621. Owing to the war and the impossibility of obtaining loans, the Commissioners had to postpone all capital expenditure except that to which they were actually committed. Work proceeded on the new filters and settling tanks at Serampore, for which contracts were made before the war, and the Bharpara drainage scheme was taken up in accordance with an agreement with the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, which will pay Rs. 12,500 towards the total cost of the scheme (Rs. 34,500). Work on the central drainage scheme and developments of the water-works improvement scheme, such as the laying of the new town main and the purchase of a new pumping-engine, were postponed. The work already done for the improvement of the water-supply has increased the supply in the town by 58 per cent., giving 17 gallons per head of population. A general election was held in December, but it was not till after the close of the financial year that the municipality was reconstituted. The Governor in Council will watch with special interest the progress made by this municipality under the Chairmanship of a non-official gentleman.

Administration.

218. The Commissioner of the Presidency Division considers that the year under report has scarcely been one of progress except that the municipalities on the east bank of the Hooghly have now agreed to join in a common scheme of water-supply which they rejected ten years ago. Sanitary Officers have received little encouragement; taxation is inadequate; expenditure on drainage and water-supply is not seriously faced. Among individual municipalities he mentions Berhampore as having again failed to perform its duties efficiently owing to laxity of management and torpid inaction accompanied by a listless expectancy of Government aid. Maniktolla has suffered from party spirit and faction for some years and is said by the Magistrate to have had the pretensions, but not the substance of modern administration. In Debhatta rates were not collected owing to internal dissension. The Commissioner adds, however, that with these exceptions the municipal services were for the most part efficiently performed within the limits of the financial resources, while in municipalities connected with the headquarters of districts the standard of administration was in many ways creditable. The administration of the mill municipalities, such as, Titagarh, Naihati and Bhatpara, which have had their resources augmented by substantial help from the mills, was business-like and efficient. Other small rural municipalities, however, were unsatisfactory. In Nadia some elements of progress are observed, and there has been normal progress in the municipalities in Khulna with the exception of Debhatta. Little advance, however, was made in Jessore, while in Murshidabad there are said to be very few indications of the growth of a healthy public opinion.

The record of the municipalities in the Burdwan district is generally unsatisfactory. Of Burdwan it is reported that little good can be said: the roads are bad, the drains are not flushed, the water-supply is abused with impunity, the finances are mismanaged and in confusion, the Municipal Board is rent by faction. Party faction and self-interest among the Commissioners prevented good administration in Katwa and to a less degree in Kalna. Conspicuous by contrast are the municipalities of Asansol, the affairs of which were administered with foresight, efficiency and economy, and Raniganj, which was managed with quiet efficiency, on a small income of which "little was wasted." The Vishnupur Municipality worked smoothly, and a marked improvement is noticed in the administration and cleanliness of Bankura, where the Municipal Commissioners have to deal with the expansion of the town owing to the opening of railway communications. No special reform or improvement was effected in Midnapore. The Commissioners of Hooghly-Chinsura declined to impose a water-rate adequate to meet the maintenance charges of the water-works; the collection of taxes was bad, and the municipality had insufficient funds to carry out municipal work efficiently. Party feeling runs high in Baidyabati and prevents good administration. In Bansberia it is reported that no improvements can be expected unless the executive and the Commissioners exert themselves to promote the welfare of the municipality. Arambagh, however, was well managed; in Uttarpara the

virulence of party feeling abated ; and the work of Bhadreswar Municipality shows a very great improvement.

In the Rajshahi Division the Commissioner reports that there has been a distinct improvemen tin the administration of municipal affairs, especially in Pabna, where a real effort is being made to look after the welfare of the town. A change in the executive has resulted in an improvement of the working of the Sirajganj Municipality, and Rangpur is commended by the Magistrate for its improved administration and business-like assessment. The hill municipalities of Darjeeling and Kurseong maintain their good record.

In the Dacca Division most of the important municipalities are maturing useful schemes of improvement, but tend to rely too much on Government aid. Professor Geddes visited Dacca on the invitation of the municipality and made a close study of the town and its needs. The administration of the other towns in the Division calls for little comment. A keen interest in municipal elections was displayed, and at Madaripur the parties were content to abide by the decision of the Magistrate over disputed elections without having recourse to litigation.

The only outstanding feature in the municipal work of the Chittagong Division was the progress made with the water-works in the town of Chittagong. The Chandpur Municipality has been trying to accumulate funds for a water-supply scheme, so that it may be able to contribute its share of the cost when Government can come to its assistance. In Comilla the Municipal Commissioners have been unable for several years past to undertake any important scheme for want of adequate funds. Its financial position does not afford sufficient security for loans from Government, and the only means of increasing the permanent revenues seems to be to adopt a tax on holdings instead of the unsatisfactory method of assessment on incomes.

Calcutta Municipality.

[Report on the Calcutta Municipality for the year 1915-16. Statistics of British India, Part VIII.—Local Funds.]

Introductory.

219. The war affected the finances of the Corporation less than was anticipated. In spite of the repayment of a loan of Rs. 25 lakhs on the 1st September 1915, the closing balance exceeded Rs. 39½ lakhs, which is nearly Rs. 6¾ lakhs better than the budget estimate.

By-laws and Rules.

220. The revised scale of fees in connection with the bye-laws under section 559 (18) for depositing building materials and placing other obstructions on public streets came into operation during the year, and the bye-laws under section 559 (34) regulating the use of Municipal slaughter-houses were modified. Clause 47 of the Corporation Leave rules was modified, and the Provident Fund rules were amended so as to provide for an increased compulsory contribution. Rules regarding the commutation of pension into lump sum payments were adopted, and consequential changes in the rules regarding re-employment of pensioners were introduced.

Revenue Funds.

221. The opening balance of the Revenue Funds on the 1st April 1915 was Rs. 36,08,267. The receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 1,14,44,080 and the payments to Rs. 1,10,98,520, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 53,827. On the basis of income and expenditure the opening balance for the year was Rs. 27,32,550, the income was Rs. 1,14,30,725 and the expenditure Rs. 1,10,64,871 leaving a credit balance of Rs. 30,98,404. The cost of establishment charged to Revenue was 21·6 per cent.

Loans and Loan funds.

222. Debentures of the face value of Rs. 13,94,300 were issued during the year against the loan of Rs. 35¾ lakhs sanctioned in 1914-15 ; the raising of the balance was suspended under the orders of the Government of India. The 5 per cent Debenture loan of Rs. 25 lakhs of 1885-86 was redeemed. The accumulation in the sinking fund for this loan was insufficient and Rs. 13,10,625 had to be borrowed afresh. The opening balance of the loan

funds was Rs. 9,40,811, the receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 31,37,862. The year closed with a balance of Rs. 11,04,619.

Loan liability, borrowing powers and Sinking Fund.

223. The total debt outstanding at the close of the year was Rs. 5,01,67,100. The liability for interest and Sinking Fund charges on this debt amounts to Rs. 30,52,493 per annum. The net amount available in the Sinking Fund at the close of the year was Rs. 37,73,327.

Assessment.

224. The revaluations which came into effect during the year yielded an increase of a little over Rs. 13½ lakhs. The remissions for vacancy were only 3·21 per cent. of the gross demand.

Surveyor's Department.

225. Plans and estimates were prepared for 134 projects as compared with 252 in the previous year. The total amount of the estimates was Rs. 17¾ lakhs nearly (as against Rs. 18 lakhs in 1914-15), and the area of land involved was 172 bighas. Twenty-three of these schemes were sanctioned. Six streets were aligned and portions of the alignments were revised in respect of five others. A complete list of all streets aligned under sections 350 and 356 was prepared and in 35 cases the alignments were cancelled wholly or in part in view of the operations of the Calcutta Improvement Trust. The work of revision of the survey maps of the added area made substantial progress. It has been decided to undertake a purely topographical maintenance of the maps of both the town and the added area at an annual cost of Rs. 6,000 to be shared equally by Government, the Corporation, and the Improvement Trust.

Collections.

226. The year opened with a total demand for Rs. 83,34,224. Out of this amount Rs. 79,47,084 was collected, Rs. 2,67,723 was remitted or cancelled, Rs. 11,161 was transferred to the Law Department and Rs. 3,671 was cancelled as irrecoverable. The gross current demand of the year was Rs. 82,91,134 against Rs. 79,33,985 in the preceding year. The net current demand amounted to Rs. 80,07,737. The percentage of collections on the net current demand was 99·52 against 99·68 during the previous year. The total demand for Miscellaneous Bill amounted to Rs. 7,71,469. The collections amounted to Rs. 7,38,631.

Bustee Department.

227. Standard plans were approved in respect of 9 large bustee areas and hut alignments were prescribed in 11 bustees, 99 bustee holdings were taken up for various improvements; and in no fewer than 43 of these the improvements were completed. Huts were completely removed from 32 bighas of insanitary bustee land. About a mile of new bustee road was opened out and sanitary conveniences were provided at the cost of the owners.

Stores Department.

228. The total value of stores purchased during the year, including road metal, coal, and food for ponies and cattle, amounted to Rs. 19,70,242. Owing to the war the difficulty of obtaining imported articles was severely felt. The construction of the Central Stores Godown has reached an advanced stage. The branch depôts at Alipur and Bagbazar were completed.

Water-supply.

229. The total quantity of water pumped averaged slightly over 60½ (35¾ filtered and 24¾ unfiltered) million gallons of water per head of population. A hundred and seventy-four bighas of land were acquired at Palta for the extension of the Water-works at a cost of Rs. 1,56,000.

Drainage.

230. The construction of somewhat less than a mile of new roads along the lines of the sewers in the canal area still remains to be completed. In the unsewered area west of Tolly's nullah about half-a-mile of new sewers was constructed during the year. The project for the surface drainage of Wards XIX to XXII made no progress. The acquisition of land in the Salt Lakes for the creation of a spill area for the improvement of the Bidyadhari River was taken up. Regular observations continue to show clearly that the silting of the river is progressive.

Lighting.

231. Seventy-three 900 candle-power electric lamps were installed in Chowringhee Road. A thousand more one-light copper lanterns were fixed in place of the old tin ones. Sixteen two-light lamps fitted with panes lettered "Tram stop" were put up at various important tramway stopping stations. The total number of gas lights was increased from 11,900 to 11,997. Thirty-five oil lamps were replaced by gas. The lighting of municipal institutions

was taken over from the Oriental Gas Company by the Lighting Department during the year.

Roads and squares.

232. The total amount spent during the year on the maintenance of roads was Rs. 9,81,000 against Rs. 8,12,000 in the preceding year. The question of effecting suitable arrangements for the supply of machine-broken stone metal of good quality and of uniform size was brought to a satisfactory conclusion during the year. An expert Committee was appointed by Government to examine the whole question of road construction in the city, and its report is under consideration by the Works Committee. The expenditure upon the improvement of squares and the maintenance of roadside trees amounted to nearly Rs. 75,000 as against Rs. 45,000 in the previous year. Progress was made with the planting of trees in streets.

Conservancy.

233. The expenditure during the year under street-cleansing incinerators and the Municipal Railway amounted to Rs. 10,57,000 as against Rs. 10,35,500 during the previous year. There has been further delay in the experimental introduction of motor traction for the removal of the city refuse through causes due to the war.

Public health. Birth and death-rates.

234. There was a still further drop in the number of births recorded, which was 16,578 during the year equivalent to 18·5 per thousand as compared with 19·4 per thousand in the previous year. It is now regarded as very doubtful whether the decline is due to defective registration. The total number of deaths was 25,590 or only 159 more than the year before, and the death-rate was practically the same in the two years, namely, 28 per thousand. Except for a severe outbreak of small-pox during the first half of the year, which resulted in 2,560 deaths, the public health of the year was satisfactory, and there was a decline in the number of deaths from all other infectious diseases, such as plague, cholera, measles, enteric and tuberculosis. The mortality from cholera dropped to 1,612 from 1,983 of the previous year and was the lowest on record since 1900, while the deaths from tuberculosis fell from 2,137 to 1,920. The death-rate among females was 37·8 per thousand against 38·5 in the previous year. The rate of infantile mortality was 287·6 per mille as against 282·7 in the previous year. Endeavours were made during the year to employ the Corporation midwives more usefully by concentrating them in a much smaller area under the close and constant supervision of the Lady Health Visitor. The proposal to employ an additional Lady Health Visitor and to double the staff of midwives was sanctioned. Except for the period April to August 1915, the city was declared free from plague throughout the year.

The work of inspection of food received special attention during the year. The prosecutions numbered 1·618 against 1,115 in the preceding year.

Markets.

235. The total revenue derived from the Municipal Markets shows an increase of about Rs. 41,000. This large increase was contributed almost entirely by the Sir Stuart Hogg Market. Various structural improvements to improve the efficiency and usefulness of the Sir Stuart Hogg Market were undertaken or projected.

The construction of the new Municipal Market in College Street was taken in hand during the year. The private markets received their due share of attention, and several of them were inspected by the Markets Committee.

Municipal Magistrate's Court.

236. The number of cases instituted before the Municipal Magistrate fell from 22,860 of the previous year to 20,325. Excluding 2,081 cases struck off or withdrawn, the number of cases brought to trial was 18,117; of these all but 802 cases ended in conviction. The amount of fines imposed was Rs. 1,02,527 as against Rs. 1,14,655 in the preceding year.

Education.

237. The total extent of the aid given to educational institutions of all kinds was Rs. 77,030. The number of schools receiving aid fell from 446 to 410, but the average daily attendance rose from 25,354 to 27,991. The Deaf and Dumb School received as usual a grant of Rs. 2,400.

Hackney Carriage Department.

238. The number of hackney carriages shows a slight increase this year (3,087 against 3,060). Altogether 5,028 drivers were registered, being an increase of 39 over the preceding year. The year's receipts amounted to Rs. 33,072.

Calcutta Improvement Trust.

[The Report on the operation of the Calcutta Improvement Trust for the year 1915-16.]

Schemes considered by the Board.

239. During the year the four improvement schemes described below were framed by the Trustees for the Improvement of Calcutta and were published for criticism :—

Scheme No. VII D is intended to continue the Central Avenue from Bowbazar to Prinsep Street at an estimated net cost of Rs. 9,80,000.

Scheme No. VIII A (estimated net cost Rs. 8,00,000) provides for the development of an area to the east of Circular Road and immediately to the south of the area covered by Improvement Scheme No. VIII.

Scheme No. XII (estimated cost Rs. 14,50,000) is designed for the widening of Park Street in order to give greater facilities for traffic.

Scheme No. XIII is a small scheme designed to link up the Central Avenue at the southern extremity of Scheme No. VII with Marcus Square and thereby to form a connected open space in the midst of a congested part of Calcutta. The cost was estimated at about Rs. 2 lakhs.

Schemes sanctioned by Government.

240. The following Improvement Schemes were sanctioned by Government during the year :—

Improvement Scheme No. IV A (Russa Road extension).

Improvement Schemes No. VII (Central Avenue—Machuabazar to Beadon Street).

Improvement Scheme No. VII A (Central Avenue—Halliday Street Widening).

Improvement Scheme No. VII B (Central Avenue—Colootollah to Bowbazar).

Improvement Scheme No. IX (Old Post Office Street widening).

Projected Public Streets.

241. Certain sections of the Calcutta Improvement Act were extended to the Maniktolla Municipality. Act III (B. C.) of 1915, which gives the Improvement Trust power to lay down the line of projected public streets and to prohibit the erection of new buildings within such lines, came into force from the 14th April, 1915; and the Board published plans of the following proposed public streets :—

I. Central Avenue—Beadon Street to Shambazar.
II. Dhurrumtollah Street extension.
III. Gobra Main Road.
IV. Roman Catholic Cathedral to Chitpore Road.
V. New China Bazar Street to Circular Road.
VI. Nimtollah Ghat Street to Chitpore Road.
IX. Central Avenue—Shambazar Street to Galiff Street.
X. Bentinck Street widening.

Public Squares.

242. The Trust allotted 10 lakhs for the creation of Squares, to be spent according to the wishes of the Calcutta Corporation; and it was resolved by the Board to undertake schemes Nos. X and XI. These are street schemes, the effect of which will be to create open spaces in the neighbourhood of Serpentine Lane in Ward No. XI and at the junction of Ripon Street and Wellesley Street in Ward No. XIV.

Finance.

243. The expenditure on capital account, incurred principally on land acquisition, was Rs. 38¾ lakhs against total receipts of Rs. 22,15,000, the deficit being met from the funds, amounting to Rs. 16,68,000, transferred from Revenue account. The Revenue account opened with a balance of Rs. 67,34,000 and the total receipts from all sources amounted to Rs. 28,51,000. The total expenditure on Revenue account was Rs. 4,48,000, which left a surplus of Rs. 91,37,000 at the close of the year.

District Boards.

[Reports from the Commissioners of Divisions on the Working of District Boards in Bengal during the year 1915-16. Statistics of British India—Part VIII.—Local Funds].

Meetings of District and Local Boards.

244. The number of meetings held during the year by the 25 District Boards in the Province was 367 against 400 of the preceding year. Among these three failed for want of a quorum.

There was no change in the number of Local Boards. The five Local Boards in the Mymensingh district were reconstituted, the result being to increase the number of members from 64 to 71. Altogether 951 meetings were held, of which 35 failed for want of a quorum, as against 54 during the preceding year. Fourteen Local Boards failed to meet once a month.

Elections.

245. General elections of District Board members were held in Birbhum, Jessore, Mymensingh, Tippera, Noakhali, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Pabna. The Local Board of Chandpur failed to elect two members for the District Board of Tippera within the prescribed time, and they consequently had to be appointed by the Commissioner. Elections also failed owing to the non-attendance of the required number of voters in two thanas in Birbhum, and in the same number of thanas in Pabna, but elsewhere proved successful. There was a noticeable increase of keenness to serve on Local Boards, because members had been given the privilege of voting for the Provincial Legislative Council, and only one Local Board election proved a failure.

Powers of District and Local Boards.

246. There was no change in the powers of District and Local Boards under the law or statutory rules. The Local Boards act as agents of the District Board and have restricted powers. During the year under review the Local Boards in the Presidency Division were entrusted with the distribution of Government grants for primary education; and in Pabna the management of dâk and inspection bungalows and the maintenance of some District Board roads were made over to the Local Boards.

Union Committees.

247. The number of Union Committees was only 66 in 1913-14 and 76 in 1914-15, but 84 were established or sanctioned in the year under review, thus more than doubling their number. Many were sanctioned too late in the year to come into active existence before its close; and the actual number working during the year was 90, of which 73 were in West Bengal and 17 in East Bengal as against 65 and 11, respectively, during the previous year. All the new Union Committees are conterminous with one or more Chaukidari Unions and their area averages 10 square miles. Sanction was given to the introduction of the elective system in 53 new Unions. With a few exceptions, such as the Union Committee of Chuadanga, which failed to meet at all, and that of Laksam, which met only once, there was an adequate number of meetings.

The total income of Union Committees (excluding the opening balances) increased from Rs. 98,672 to Rs. 1,11,968, the total expenditure from Rs. 90,970 to Rs. 1,07,711 and the closing balances from Rs. 28,056 to Rs. 32,313. The bulk of their income consisted of contributions from the District Board, but there was an increase of Rs. 2,353 in receipts from pounds and of Rs. 5,912 from taxation. The number of Committees which have introduced self-taxation rose from 25 to 36, and the percentage of income derived from this source to the total income increased from 18·6 to 21·5. Rupees 15,184, or more than half the total receipts from taxation, was raised in the Burdwan Division, Rs. 10,021 being accounted for by the three Committees of Bolpur, Dubrajpur and Rampur Hât in Birbhum. Only two of 23 Committees in Hooghly, Murshidabad and Jessore have so far not resorted to self-taxation.

Expenditure on water-supply was almost doubled, while expenditure on roads and sanitation, as in the previous year, approximated to one-half and one-third, respectively, of the total expenditure. The Union Committees of Dubrajpur and Bolpur in Birbhum and of Pandua in Hooghly were reported to have taken a practical interest in local sanitation, water-supply and village conservancy. The Dubrajpur Union continued to deal effectively with encroachment on village roads and the Bagerhat Union in Khulna carried out a scheme for the drainage of the bazar. Conservancy work was carried

on by the Unions of Feni in Noakhali and Akkhaura in Tippera. A scheme of taxation for sanitary improvements was sanctioned for the Union last-named. Expenditure on dispensaries was confined to the Union of Rampur Hât and to several Unions in the 24-Parganas. All the Union Committees in the district of Jessore received allotments from the Imperial grants for primary education, but no other Committee, except the Committee of Aurangabad in Murshidabad, spent anything on education. Fourteen Unions disposed of the whole of their funds.

Financial Results.

248. The opening balance, including deposits to the credit of the Boards, was Rs. 43,30,158, and the closing balance was Rs. 33,49,533. The total receipts (excluding opening balance) increase from Rs. 1,00,47,964 to Rs. 1,06,91,743, and the total expenditure chargeable to income from Rs. 97,28,951 to Rs. 1,04,72,066. The income and expenditure for the last two years under the main heads are shown below :—

INCOME.					EXPENDITURE.				
HEADS.	1914-15.		1915-16.		HEADS.	1914-15.		1915-16.	
	Income.	Percentage of total income.	Income.	Percentage of total income.		Expenditure.	Percentage of total expenditure.	Expenditure.	Percentage of total expenditure.
	Rs.		Rs.			Rs.		Rs.	
Land Revenue ...	283	·003	798	·006	Refunds and Drawbacks.	1,978	·02	35,578	·3
Provincial Rates ...	56,36,395	58·6	62,42,833	58·3	Land Revenue ...	27	·0002	27	·0002
Interest	18,466	·18	35,203	·32	Administration ...	2,41,434	2·3	2,70,912	2·3
Law and Justice ...	4,184	·04	2,103	·02	Local Rates	16	...	...	...
Police	3,69,486	3·7	3,63,745	3·4	Law and Justice ...	3,180	·03	3,769	·03
Education	12,86,929	12·8	10,02,881	9·4	Police	22,104	·2	22,742	·19
Medical	89,850	·89	98,606	·92	Ports and Pilotage ...	6,755	·06	9,104	·08
Minor Departments ...	9,991	·09	5,891	·05	Education	24,58,478	23·03	24,20,179	27·3
Stationery	412	·004	667	·003	Medical	6,92,357	6·4	8,04,026	6·8
Miscellaneous ...	1,75,268	1·7	5,41,629	5·06	Minor Departments ...	87,819	·8	1,09,567	·96
Railways	69,651	·7	73,655	·7	Superannuation ...	53,045	·49	66,898	·58
Irrigation	26,764	·3	8,090	·07	Stationery	31,706	·29	32,019	·27
Civil Works	12,74,162	12·7	12,41,704	11·6	Miscellaneous ...	24,425	·23	28,386	·25
Loans	...	...	25,000	·2	Famine Relief ...	267	·003	2,94,148	2·8
Deposits, etc.	8,63,843	8·6	9,49,492	8·8	Railways	3,409	·03	...	...
					Minor Works	14,629	·13	11,252	·01
					Civil Works	60,38,921	56·7	63,71,107	54·5
					Interest, etc.	8,286	·08	11,281	·09
					Repayments of Loans ...	19,728	·18	16,552	·14
					Deposits	10,88,856	10·03	11,84,850	10·14
Total ...	1,00,47,964	...	1,06,91,743	...	Total ...	1,08,37,599	...	1,16,73,369	...

INCOME.

Provincial Rates.

249. An increase of Rs. 4,54,528 is returned under this head, the net receipts in the Presidency, Rajshahi and Dacca Divisions having risen by 1·3 lakhs, 1·5 lakhs and 1·7 lakhs, respectively, owing to revaluation and collection of arrears. The local distress which occurred in some districts had a very slight effect on the receipts, the decrease in Bankura for instance, being only Rs. 12,716 on a total of over one lakh.

Receipts under the Cattle Trespass Act.

250. There was a decrease of Rs. 8,903 following on a decrease of Rs. 6,072 in 1914-15. The reduction of receipts is attributed in the Tippera district to local scarcity and in the Dacca district to absence of competition among the pound-keepers, who belong to the cultivating classes, and who had experienced a bad season in 1914-15 owing to the fall in the price of jute. There were large arrears of unrealised rents in some districts, *e.g.*, Rs. 10,273 in Faridpur and Rs. 5,628 in Bakarganj, where the Bhola Local Board was responsible for arrear collections amounting to Rs. 4,586.

Education.

251. A reduction of the receipts by Rs. 2,56,048 is due to a decrease in Government grants and is common to all districts.

Medical.

252. Private contributions decreased from Rs. 49,800 to Rs. 43,321 and Government contributions increased from Rs. 31,782 to Rs. 45,926. the net result being an increase of Rs. 8,826.

Ferries.

253. The receipts from ferries were practically the same as last year and show no signs of having been affected by the local scarcity which occurred in some districts ; they were stationary in Bankura and increased by over Rs. 2,000 in Tippera.

Grants from Government.

254. Notwithstanding financial stringency, there was an increase of Rs. 44,143 as the result of special grants made by Government to enable the District Boards of Tippera and Bankura to carry on relief works. The former received a grant of Rs. 85,000 and the latter Rs. 3,09,982.

Loans.

255. A sum of Rs. 25,000 was received by the Burdwan District Board as the first instalment of a loan of Rs. 50,000 granted by Government for the improvement of roads in the Asansol Subdivision.

EXPENDITURE.

Administration.

256. Expenditure on administration increased by Rs. 21,478 owing to revision of the scale of pay of establishment, periodical increments of salary, grain compensation allowances, and the larger amounts paid as travelling allowance to members of District and Local Boards for attending meetings. No District Board found it possible to economise when effecting a revision of establishment, and there has consequently been a further increase of recurring charges. The percentage of expenditure on administration to the total expenditure chargeable to current income varied from 1·1 in Chittagong to 3·7 in Jessore, as against a minimum of 1·6 and maximum of 3·6 per cent. last year.

Education.

257. The total sum spent on Primary schools was Rs. 18,27,750, or double the allotments made for this purpose from Imperial grants. The maintenance of Middle schools cost Rs. 88,006, and of Training and Special schools Rs. 60,100. Inspection Rs. 48,000, and Scholarships Rs. 40,700; while miscellaneous charges amounted to Rs. 1,35,000. The balance of about two lakhs appears to have been spent largely in grants-in-aid to Middle English schools.

The total number of Upper and Lower Primary schools maintained and aided by District Boards was 32,194. Of these 29,377 were aided and 2,817 were maintained by the Boards, 25,706 being boys' schools and 6,488 girls' schools. Middle Vernacular schools continue to lose popularity compared with Middle English schools. There was sustained progress in the education of Muhammadans except in the Chittagong Division. The District Boards of Burdwan and Midnapore allowed *maktabs* 50 per cent. in excess of the grants made to ordinary Primary schools. A rapid increase was reported from all Divisions in the number of girls attending Primary schools aided or maintained by the Boards.

Special and Technical Schools.

258. The Technical schools under the District Boards have for some time past been not altogether successful, and no progress can be detected during the year under review except that a Weaving school was established at Pabna and the Burdwan Technical School, which seemed hardly likely to survive, obtained affiliation to the Sub-Overseer Standard for a further five years. The want of a genuine widespread demand for technical education in the interior of the Presidency is illustrated by the artizan class of the school last mentioned, which attracted only three students each enjoying a scholarship. The results were little better in the artizan class of the Rajshahi Industrial School, which has been in existence for several years: there were only eight boys in the class, of whom all but two had scholarships. The latter school, which had proposed to close the Sub-Overseer class, gave it another trial as the number of students was on the increase. The result was that 7 out of 11 students were sent up for the examination and only 2 passed. The Elliott Artizan School under the management of the District Board of Tippera passed 8 out of 14 students at the Sub-Overseer Examination at the disproportionate cost of Rs. 11,253. Free use was made of the power to grant Special and Technical scholarships outside the district. The District Boards of the Presidency Division alone gave 28 scholarships tenable at a wide range of institutions, such as the Veterinary College at Belgachia, the Engineering College at Sibpur, the School of Art at Calcutta, the Weaving Institute at Serampore, the Blind School and the Deaf and Dumb School at Calcutta. Similar scholarships were granted by other District Boards.

Medical.

259. The expenditure under this head increased by over a lakh, mainly in West Bengal. The number of dispensaries maintained by them rose from

160 to 182, while the number aided by them (243) was the same as in the previous year. In this as well as in the preceding year useful work was done in the Rajshahi district by deputing a peripatetic doctor during the fever season to treat the crowds of villagers who attended settlement camps in an area where no medical facilities were available. The experiment proved a success owing to the doctor working under the supervision of an Assistant Settlement Officer and receiving assistance from the Settlement Department. In some districts of Eastern Bengal *hât* or village market dispensaries were maintained, the doctors visiting neighbouring *hâts* and giving medical aid to the people attending them. The Birbhum District Board made a special effort to cope with an epidemic of malarial fever with the help of a Government grant of Rs. 25,000, and opened 12 dispensaries, each in charge of a Sub-Assistant Surgeon. An experiment was made with free vaccination in the Sadar Subdivision of Bakarganj at the joint expense of Government and the District Board, and over 60,000 persons were vaccinated in five months at a total cost of Rs. 4,324. In the 24-Parganas also the District Board appointed a special staff to carry on free vaccination with satisfactory results. The Bankura District Board employed 24 paid vaccinators to work free of charge among patients suffering from small-pox, which broke out in epidemic form in some areas suffering from scarcity. Supernumerary and temporary doctors were as usual entertained by District Boards to deal with outbreaks of epidemic diseases. Contributions were made to the Pasteur Institute both at Kasauli and Shillong.

Sanitation.

260. The returns showed an increased outlay amounting to Rs. 44,098 on sanitation, but the increase was more apparent than real, as the total included an additional expenditure of Rs. 30,000 by the Burdwan District Board on water-supply. Expenditure under this head covers a quantity of miscellaneous sanitary work of a minor character, mostly carried out by Local Boards or Union Committees, such as jungle-clearing, cleaning of tanks, filling up of ditches, construction of small drains and sanitary arrangements at *mêlas* and fairs. The funds of District Boards, which have to provide for the expanding needs of roads, water-supply, hospitals, veterinary relief, etc., are generally insufficient for large sanitary schemes, while they have no adequate organization for sanitary work of any importance.

Not much progress was made in the appointment of Sanitary Inspectors, and the functions of this officer are still somewhat ill-defined. The majority were engaged in inspecting the sanitary condition of villages and advising on their sanitary improvement. Sanitary Inspectors are reported to have worked well in the Rajshahi Division. In Jessore useful work was done during epidemics and at *mêlas*. In Mymensingh the Inspector visited village markets and bazars, and several prosecutions of vendors of unhealthy and adulterated food resulted. The District Board of Dinajpur employed an Inspector for each of the three subdivisions. In Midnapore two out of four Sanitary Inspectors were solely engaged in the treatment of cholera, while a third was placed in charge of a dispensary and a fourth resigned: no appointments were made in the place of the latter two officers.

Veterinary charges.

261. The strengthening of the veterinary staff by several Boards, and the expansion of veterinary work, resulted in an increased expenditure of Rs. 15,335. Several Boards have now worked up to the standard of maintaining one veterinary assistant for each subdivision, and in some districts, for instance Mymensingh and Rangpur, it has been exceeded. A veterinary dispensary was constructed by the Bakarganj District Board at a cost of over Rs. 20,000.

Civil Works.

262. The total expenditure under this head, which includes the sums spent on water-supply and drainage, increased by Rs. 3,32,116. Expenditure on buildings hardly varied, but the outlay on communications rose by approximately 3 lakhs, viz., "Original works" from Rs. 20,38,005 to Rs. 21,24,577 and "Repairs" from Rs. 23,58,006 to Rs. 25,76,474. The proportion of expenditure on communications in each Division did not differ materially from that of the previous year. There was an increase of Rs. 1,97,508 in expenditure on original works of communication by the District Board of the 24-Parganas. The mileage of metalled, unmetalled and village roads in

charge of the District Boards at the end of the year was 1,947, 13,105 and 15,768, respectively, showing an increase of 67,181 and 702 miles.

The percentage of lapses to allotments, which decreased during the previous year from 19·94 to 13·4, fell during the year under review to 7·6. The rapid reduction of this percentage was the result of the increase of spending capacity on the part of District Boards which has been effected by an adjustment of their working arrangements to the recent increase in their income. The District Boards of Midnapore and Nadia allowed 30 per cent. and 20 per cent., respectively, of their allotments to lapse, and six other Boards had lapses of over 10 per cent. Four Boards spent the whole of their allotments. Expenditure by the District Board of Tippera exceeded allotments by 4·4 per cent. as the result of heavy expenditure on repairs which had been necessitated by damage from floods.

Water-supply.

263. The returns showed a decrease of Rs. 24,029 under this head, the net result of a decrease of Rs. 50,151 on original works, and an increase of Rs. 26,122 on repairs. On the other hand, Rs. 1,02,052 were spent in Bankura on the construction of tanks and reservoirs (*bandhs*), which were debited to Famine Relief, while, as stated above, an additional outlay of Rs. 30,000 in water-supply in Burdwan was entered under the head Sanitation. Including these sums, the expenditure on water-supply amounted to 7 lakhs. Excluding the expenditure in Bankura, however, which was incurred out of a special grant given by Government, the total ordinary expenditure must be regarded as having been practically stationary as compared with the previous year

There was an increase of expenditure amounting to $1\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs in 1913-14 and $2\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs in 1914-15, but in this year, a decrease is recorded in every Division, except the Presidency Division, and no district, except Bankura, did much more for water-supply than during the previous year, while several did less. The decrease was Rs. 14,246 in Bakarganj, Rs. 19,221 in Dacca, over Rs. 10,000 in Midnapore, and over Rs. 5,000 in Bogra, Jessore and Howrah. The District Board of Bakarganj was able to begin only two new tanks during the year. The difficulties reported elsewhere were in Midnapore and Pabna the failure of local contributions, in Murshidabad the reluctance of proprietors, who are neither willing nor able to re-excavate tanks themselves, to make them over as reserved tanks after re-excavation by the Boards, although proprietary and fishing rights are secured to them. In Noakhali, on the other hand, where the public are ready to make over their tanks to be reserved by the Board, funds are said not to permit of any but selected tanks being taken up each year. A water survey was completed in Faridpur, and slow progress was made by the District Board of Jessore in completing water-supply registers and maps. The District Board of Mymensingh has in contemplation a scheme for showing the sources and nature of the water-supply in each village by colours and symbols on the 16" Settlement maps.

Drainage.

264. These charges represent petty drainage works similar to many of the works accounted for under the head of Sanitation. One-third of the total expenditure was incurred by the District Board of Bakarganj on the drainage of the Salta Bil, which was taken up at a total estimated cost of Rs. 41,861.

Arboriculture.

265. Roadside tree-planting is being carried out on a systematic scale by the District Boards of Bankura and Hooghly. The Jessore District Board initiated the experiment of having roadsides planted under a contract system of payment of Rs. 20 for each tree planted and thriving after three years. The District Boards of Dacca and Bakarganj again spent nothing under this head, and the expenditure in several other districts was small.

Railways.

266. In the 24-Parganas the construction of the Kalighat-Falta Railway was taken up during the year by Messrs. McLeod & Co. The Barasat-Basirhat Railway Company obtained sanction for a branch line, about 4 miles long, from the Kholapota or Arbelia station to Baduria. Sanction was also obtained by Messrs. McLeod & Co. for the survey of a line from Magraha to Jainagar and from Jainagar to Kulpi and Khari in the same district. In Jessore the management of the Jessore-Jhenida Railway, which had been working at a loss, was taken over by Messrs. McLeod & Co. In the Burdwan Division the Burdwan-Katwa Light Railway has been completed and is open for traffic, and the Ahmadpur-Katwa Light Railway and Bankura-Damodar River Light Railway are under construction. In Bakarganj

proposals for a railway from Bhola to Lalmohun fell through, mainly because the Board considered it to be too risky to give a guarantee of Rs. 66,000 per annum demanded by Messrs. Martin & Co.

Famine relief.

267. During the year 1915 there was a general scarcity in Bankura, and local scarcity in parts of Mymensingh and Tippera. Expenditure on famine relief by the District Board of Bankura amounted to Rs. 2,58,885, of which Rs. 67,851 was on account of gratuitous relief and Rs. 1,90,231 on account of test and relief works. Test works were opened in this district at the end of August 1915 and village doles were distributed by the end of October. The operations were continued through the agency of the District Board till the end of the financial year. A large number of *bandhs* or reservoirs constructed were in Bankura.

Closing balances.

268. The actual closing balance decreased by over Rs. 9 lakhs, viz., from Rs. 31,17,843 to Rs. 21,88,169. The District Board of the 24-Parganas still retains the largest closing balance (Rs. 2,35,000), after deducting Rs. 2 lakhs which represents Government grants given for a drainage project which it has not yet been possible to institute. Something, however, has been done by the Board to reduce its balance, while the District Boards of Burdwan, Midnapore and Mymensingh have reduced closing balances of over Rs. 3 lakhs to Rs. 2,58,600, Rs. 2,58,900 and Rs. 2,14,200, respectively. There is no other District Board with a closing balance of over Re. one lakh.

Volunteers.

Total strength.

269. The total number of Volunteers and Reservists during the year 1915-16 was 9,560, of whom 9,058 qualified as efficient.

Marine.

(1) Annual Report of the Port Officer, Calcutta, 1915-16.
(2) Annual Report of the Port Officer, Chittagong, 1915-16.
(3) Annual Report on Shipping Offices in Bengal, 1915-16
(4) Annual Report of the Health Officer of the Port of Calcutta, 1915.
(5) Annual Report of the Health Officer of the Port of Chittagong, 1915.
(6) Administration Report of the Agent for Government Consignments, 1915-16.
(7) Annual Report of the Bengal Smoke-nuisances Commission, 1915-16.
(8) Administration Report of the Port Commissioners, Calcutta, 1915-16.
(9) Administration Report of the Howrah Bridge, 1915-16.
(10) Administration Report of the Port Commissioners, Chittagong, 1915-16.
(11) Annual Report of the Bengal Steam-boiler Commission, 1915-16.

PORT OF CALCUTTA.

Pilot Service.

270. There were 52 Pilots and 11 Leadsmen Apprentices in the service. The service lost four officers during the year; one Branch and one Senior Master Pilot retired, and one First and one Second Mate Leadsman resigned. As no suitable candidates for the service were obtainable in England, owing to war conditions, one Leadsman Apprentice was appointed locally from the Merchant service. Fifteen officers out of 21 absent on leave were employed on duties connected with the war.

Vessels piloted.

271. Vessels to the number of 1,145 with a gross tonnage of 4,832,612 and 1,154 with a gross tonnage of 4,750,736 were piloted inwards and outwards, respectively, against 1,431 and 1,451 vessels with a gross tonnage of 6,006,581 and 6,099,433, respectively, during the previous year.

The number of vessels drawing over 21 feet piloted inwards and outwards was 395 and 739, respectively, against 401 and 827 vessels in the preceding year.

Pilotage receipts.

272. The receipts from pilotage were Rs. 11,06,117 against Rs. 13,14,601 and Rs. 14,63,822 in 1914-15 and 1913-14, respectively.

Casualties to vessels.

273. There were 23 cases of grounding against 24 in 1914-15. No damage resulted. In two instances the pilots were found to have been guilty of an error of judgment. Necessary action was taken in each case.

One collision occurred against 4 in the preceding year, and one boat was damaged as the result of the collision. The Pilot was not held to blame.

Three Departmental and 10 Special Courts of Enquiry were held during the year.

Examinations.

274. Thirty-four candidates out of 77 successfully passed the examinations for the grant of Colonial and Home Trade certificates of Competency as Master, Mate, Engineer or Engine-driver, and 130 out of 575 candidates passed the examinations for Certificates of Competency as Master, Serang or Engine-driver under the Inland Steam-Vessels Act, 1884.

Storm warning signals.

275. A revised system of storm-warning signals was approved by the Government of India and introduced in ports in the Bay of Bengal situated in the Presidency with effect from the 1st January 1916 in supersession of the old system.

Petroleum vapour testing apparatus.

276. For the protection of the shipping in the port a "Redwood's inflammable vapour and gas detecting apparatus" was obtained from England for use in the holds of bulk-oil vessels after discharge.

PORT OF CHITTAGONG.

Arrival and departure of vessels.

277. Vessels to the number of 838 (including 535 inland steamers) with a gross tonnage of 626,305 entered the port and 817 vessels (including 519 inland steamers) with a gross tonnage of 621,516 cleared, against 714 and 705 vessels representing a gross tonnage of 618,622 and 617,855, respectively, during the previous year.

Casualties to vessels.

278. There were three casualties to vessels during the year. One was a case of collision and in the other two cases one vessel sank and one was totally lost. In one case a Special Court of Enquiry was appointed under section 31 of the Inland Steam-Vessels Act, 1884.

Examination.

279. Out of 151 candidates 69 passed the prescribed examinations for Master's, Serang's or Engine-driver's certificates under the Inland Steam-Vessels Act, 1884.

SHIPPING OFFICES, CALCUTTA AND KIDDERPORE.

Finance.

280. The receipts of the Shipping Offices amounted to Rs. 94,319 and the expenditure to Rs. 57,669 against Rs. 1,04,854 and Rs. 61,509, respectively, in the previous year.

Seamen shipped and discharged.

281. The number of seamen shipped and discharged was :—

Articles.	1914-15.	1915-16.	Decrease.
Shipped—			
European	1,170	1,089	81
Indian	43,790	39,438	4,352
Discharged—			
European	1,427	832	595
Indian	38,368	31,597	6,771

Sixty-one Anglo-Indians were shipped on European Articles during the year as compared with 81 in the previous year, and 375 Anglo-Indians were shipped on Indian Articles against 475 in the previous year.

Repatriation of distressed seamen.

282. Fifty-four seamen were repatriated at the expense of their ships and 2 at their own expense against 65 in the preceding year.

CHITTAGONG SHIPPING OFFICE.

Finance.

283. The receipts of the Chittagong Shipping Office amounted to Rs. 398 and the expenditure to Rs. 888 against Rs. 834 and Rs. 822, respectively in the past year.

Seamen shipped and discharged.

284. The number of seamen shipped and discharged was 144 and 304 against 211 and 319, respectively, in the previous year.

HEALTH OF THE PORT OF CALCUTTA.

Inspection of vessels.

285. The number of inward and outward bound vessels inspected by the Health Officer was 466 and 659 against 492 and 668, respectively, in 1914.

The number of crew hands and passengers passed or rejected was :—

		Passed.	Rejected.
Outward bound vessels ...	Crew hands ...	48,746	179
	Passengers ...	11,184	20
Inward bound vessels ...	Crew hands ...	30,001	...
	Passengers ...	7,760	...

Health of seamen.

286. European seamen admitted into hospitals were 434, of whom 9 died against 635 admissions and 13 deaths in 1914. There were 45 cases of venereal diseases against 76 in the previous year. The number of deaths at sea was 6 against 3 in the past year.

The number of deaths among Asiatic seamen was 173 or 6·69 per mille against 188 or 7·27 per mille in 1914. Cholera and drowning accounted for 51 and 49 deaths, respectively, while 30 deaths were due to accidents.

Infectious diseases.

287. Fifteen cases of small-pox and 7 of chicken-pox were reported to have occurred on sea-going vessels. The patients were removed to the Campbell Hospital and the crew vaccinated. One case of cholera was removed from a sea-going vessel. Four ships were found infected with beri-beri. In each of the four cases foodstuffs were inspected and arrangements made for changing the supply of rice, etc. In all the cases the vessels were disinfected.

HEALTH OF THE PORT OF CHITTAGONG.

Infectious diseases.

288. Two cases of cholera occurred on two sea-going vessels both of which ended fatally. One ship was found to be infected with beri-beri. The vessels affected were disinfected.

Inspections.

289. The total number of vessels inspected was 45 against 41 in 1914.

AGENCY FOR GOVERNMENT CONSIGNMENTS.

Finance.

290 The total receipts of the Agency were Rs. 6,57,306, and the expenditure was Rs. 6,06,389.

Tonnage handled.

291. The tonnage dealt with was :—

Packages	...	660,785 (including 154,008 bricks).
Tons	...	41,351.

The total value of freight bills passed by the Agency was Rs. 5,40,501.

BENGAL SMOKE-NUISANCES COMMISSION.

Inspections and observations.

292. The Inspectors of the Department made 11,891 observations of smoke-emission against 9,101 during the previous year and visited 5,236 factories, examining power plant, instructing firemen and testing fuel appliances.

The average emission of smoke of the greatest density was reduced from 1·66 minutes in the hour during the past year to 1·4 minutes in the hour.

Amendment of the Bengal Smoke nuisances Act, 1905.

293. The Bengal Smoke-nuisances Act, 1905, was amended to provide for a non-official majority in the Smoke-nuisances Board and to regulate the emission of offensive smoke from the furnaces of ocean-going steamers in the port of Calcutta. By virtue of a rule issued under the old Act, ocean-going steamers were exempt from the operation of the Act, for two hours prior to leaving moorings which accounted for much of the nuisance caused by them. The provision for a complete close time has been withdrawn under the amending Act. It now provides for the regulation by statutory rules of the emission of smoke from steamers. The amending Act also gives the Commission power to control the emission of smoke from fire-places of clubs, hotels and similar institutions, which were previously not subject to the Act and provides for certain other minor matters.

294. Statutory warnings were issued in 86 cases against 41 in the previous year, while prosecution was instituted in 48 instances, all ending in conviction. **Prosecutions under the Act.**

295. The number of certificates of competency issued to Stokers who passed the requisite examinations during the year was 10 against 29 in the preceding year. **Stoker's certificates.**

CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.

296. The income of the Trust which includes Rs. 26·97 lakhs derived from war surcharges amounted to Rs. 1,59,35,456 and the expenditure to Rs. 1,49,07,001 against Rs. 1,44,50,349 and Rs. 1,55,38,840, respectively, in 1914-15. **Income and expenditure.**

297. The Commissioners were authorised to raise during the year for expenditure on Capital works a debenture loan of Rs. 85 lakhs bearing interest at a rate not exceeding 4 per cent. per annum repayable in 60 years. The total expenditure on Capital works amounted to Rs. 71 lakhs. The principal works in progress during the year were :— **Capital expenditure.**

(1) Provision of five additional berths at Garden Reach.
(2) Reclamation work in connection with the new Docks scheme.
(3) Construction of four-storeyed warehouse in Hide Road for rail-borne tea and general merchandise.
(4) Purchase of a third suction dredger.

298. The Capital debt of the Trust at the end of the year was Rs. 10,75,49,302 against which the Commissioners hold properties valued at Rs. 14,10,70,051. **Capital debt.**

The 5½ per cent. loan of 1886 for Rs. 30 lakhs which matured in February 1916 was repaid.

299. The navigable channel of the river Hughli between Mud Point and Saugor was lighted throughout the year by means of 16 gas buoys and two boat buoys to facilitate night navigation. About 30 ships passed outward through the lighted channel at night. **Night navigation.**

300. The following table shows in detail the income and expenditure of the Trust during the year together with the figures of the past year. **Financial result.**

	1915-16.				1914-15.				DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 1915-16 AND 1914-15.	
	Income.	Expenditure.	Nett Revenue.	Nett deficit.	Income.	Expenditure.	Nett revenue.	Nett deficit.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Control	61,180	9,61,698	...	9,00,508	67,690	9,57,149	...	8,89,459	...	11,049
II.—Jetties	17,73,805	9,55,123	8,18,782	...	20,87,174	10,44,852	9,92,322	...	...	1,73,540
III.—Tea Warehouse ...	2,96,416	1,34,591	1,71,165	...	2,22,258	1,18,968	1,03,290	...	68,875	...
IV.—Petroleum wharf ...	4,28,739	30,159	3,98,580	...	4,28,397	39,493	3,88,904	...	77	...
V.—Inland Vessels Wharves	4,55,123	1,75,959	2,79,164	...	4,26,979	1,99,427	2,27,552	...	51,612	...
VI.—Kidderpore lands and buildings.	7,99,557	1,39,393	6,60,164	...	6,59,172	2,04,365	4,54,787	...	1,75,377	...
VII.—Port	6,47,932	6,44,437	...	1,96,505	5,34,994	6,83,873	...	98,681	...	97,824
VIII.—Pier Approaches ...	3,79,917	9,84,369	...	5,54,443	5,53,754	8,41,097	...	2,87,343	...	99,960
IX.—Railway	18,37,585	15,28,622	2,08,963	...	13,80,365	15,91,947	...	1,962	3,10,545	...
X.—Wet Docks	41,01,443	29,44,442	15,17,001	...	45,56,915	25,20,225	17,54,987	...	1,23,014	...
XI.—Dry Docks	2,46,596	73,068	1,73,618	...	2,21,218	72,813	1,96,405	...	...	21,787
XII.—Ferry Service	4,06,247	33,9,806	76,442	...	3,84,267	3,61,196	23,071	...	53,541	...
XIII.—River Dues	18,04,257	...	18,04,257	...	20,96,133	...	20,96,133	...	...	2,92,766
XIV.—Special War Surcharges	26,97,683	...	26,97,683	...	3,11,711	...	3,11,711	...	23,85,972	...
Sale of unserviceable materials	63,449	...	63,449	...	17,301	...	17,301	...	46,148	...
Contribution from Howrah Bridge.	29,822	...	29,822	...	24,751	...	24,751	...	5,071	...
Interest on Revenue Reserve ...	91,577	...	91,577	...	77,678	...	77,678	...	3,899	...
Amount payable by Capital Account to Revenue Account, haulage and maintenance of rolling stock, including establishment employed on reclamation works chargeable to Capital.	69,778	...	69,778	...	80,412	...	80,412	...	...	10,634
Interest on bank balance ...	...	...	...	...	...	C.I. 2,161	...	C.I. 2,161	...	2,161
Interest and sinking fund charges.	...	63,57,835	...	63,57,835	...	63,66,000	...	63,66,000	...	8,11,125
Contribution to Depreciation Fund.	...	1,00,000	...	1,00,000	...	1,00,000	...	1,00,000	...	...
Reconstruction of Jetty at 40 feet river entrance.	...	...	...	...	...	5,401	...	5,401	5,401	...
Total ...	1,59,35,456	1,49,07,001	86,28,726	78,10,271	1,44,50,349	1,55,38,840	84,06,124	74,97,915	99,26,922	5,19,986

HOWRAH BRIDGE.

Receipts and charges.

301. The income of the bridge amounted to Rs. 1,95,365 and the expenditure to Rs. 2,98,685 against Rs. 1,77,275 and Rs. 2,17,280, respectively, in the previous year. The deficit of Rs. 1,03,320 has been carried forward as a debit on Revenue Account, it being considered inexpedient to realize securities held by the Reserve Fund owing to the present unfavourable condition of the money market.

The receipts from railway goods traffic, which form the bulk of the revenue of the bridge, amounted to Rs. 1,72,042 against Rs. 1,57,384 in 1914-15, an increase of Rs. 14,658.

The bridge was opened on 307 occasions, of which 40 were during the day and 267 at night.

Proposals for a new bridge.

302. Proposals for providing a new bridge are awaiting expert examination. Meanwhile, as delay will be inevitable, the existing bridge is being strengthened.

CHITTAGONG PORT TRUST.

Finance.

303. The total income of the Trust, including the annual assignment of Rs. 20,208 from the Burma Coast Light Dues Fund and the Government grant of Rs. 1,50,000 amounted to Rs. 4,55,498 as against Rs. 3,69,121 and the expenditure to Rs. 4,62,184 as against Rs. 3,90,550 during the previous year. There was a deficit on the year's working of Rs. 6,686 which was met from the opening balance. The improvement of revenue was due mainly to the abnormal importation of Burma rice, the newly introduced license fees on flats and the increased number of country brigs that visited the port.

Capital expenditure.

304. The expenditure on Capital Works amounted to Rs. 1,49,169, of which the following were the principal items :—

	Rs.
(1) Acquisition of land connected with scheme to facilitate landing from coasting steamers	76,935
(2) Construction of steel pontoons with grabs	39,053
(3) Construction of a new hull for the S.T. "Gekko."	18,950

Assets and liabilities.

305. The assets of the Trust on the 31st March 1916 were estimated at Rs. 35,43,774 and the liabilities, excluding the Government loans for revetment work, at Rs. 1,07,258.

Arrival of vessels.

306. The total number of steamers and native craft that visited the Port during the year was 1,219 or 505 more than in the previous year.

Value of trade.

307. The total value of sea-borne trade of the Port, both foreign and coasting, amounted to Rs. 863·86 lakhs, as against Rs. 740·66 lakhs in the previous year.

Dredgers for the Port of Chittagong.

308. The necessity for the provision of a second dredger for the Port has been admitted, but the question of ways and means and of the most suitable type of dredger is under the consideration of the Government of India. Meanwhile at the request of that Government the Port Commissioners are collecting further data and making experiments on the lines suggested by Sir. G Buchanan.

Two small grab dredgers mounted on pontoons, the construction of which was sanctioned by Government in 1913, were completed and brought into use during the year. These dredgers are required to deal effectually with silt which accumulates against the piles of the railway jetties.

BENGAL STEAM-BOILER COMMISSION.

Inspections of boilers.

309. The total number of boilers on the registers for Calcutta and other places within the jurisdiction of the Commission was 5,648 against 5,568 in the preceding year.

The number of boilers inspected and certified was 4,640 (including 26 boilers in Calcutta and suburbs and 16 in the mufassal twice presented for

examination) against 5,030 in 1914-15 inclusive of 35 boilers in Calcutta and 371 in the mufassal, which were twice examined. Boilers to the number of 181 were struck off the registers as not having been presented for examination for five years or being removed from jurisdiction or condemned. The remaining 869 boilers were not offered for inspection, being temporarily out of use or under repairs.

Rules regulating pension and leave of Boiler Inspectors.

310. The question of the issue of rules to regulate the grant of leave and pension to the Boiler Inspectors in pursuance of section 4 of the Bengal Steam-Boilers and Prime-Movers Act, 1879, as amended by Act II of 1915 was under the consideration of Government.

WAR SECTION.

War.

311. As in the previous year, matters connected with the war continued to be dealt with confidentially in the War Section of the Marine Department.

CHAPTER IV—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Agriculture.

[Report on the Agricultural Department, Bengal, for the year ending 30th June 1916.]

Administration.

312. After holding the post of Director of Agriculture, Bengal, for a period of four years, Mr. J. R. Blackwood, I.C.S., made over charge to Mr. S. Milligan of the Imperial Agricultural Service on the 9th June, 1916. Mr. G. P. Hector, the Economic Botanist, went on long leave on the 3rd May, 1916; his work has been entrusted to Mr. R. S. Finlow, the Fibre Expert. The Secretary of State has sanctioned the post of a third Deputy Director of Agriculture, but recruitment will not be made until the war is over. During the year under report the Director of Agriculture submitted proposals for the revision of the Subordinate Agricultural Services. The main lines on which the revision should be effected have been settled; but, like other new schemes, this must also wait for better times.

Agricultural Education.

313. Only two students were successful in the Diploma Examination of the Sabour Agricultural College in Bihar held in March, 1916. One of them has been appointed temporarily under the Government of Bihar and Orissa as a supernumerary Agriculturist, while the other is reported to have enlisted. The number of Bengal students in the first, second and third year classes of the College are 12, 6 and 2, respectively. The scheme for giving a course of agricultural training on the Dacca Farm to the sons of zamindars has been kept in abeyance for want of any assurance that students will be forthcoming.

Research and experiment.

314. Selection and cross-breeding experiments are being continued with regard to jute and it has been established that the Fibre Expert's pure line selection Kakya Bombai No. 7 is a heavier yielder than any of the local varieties. Among the most important manurial experiments of the past year are those connected with water hyacinth, a weed which is the cause of very serious obstruction to the waterways of Bengal: the experiments indicate that in the potash contained in the ash and in the rotted plant an excellent manure for jute has been discovered; and that the value of the plant for manure may perhaps induce cultivators to clear the waterways which are infested with it. The Agricultural Chemist continued his experiments on cane sugar. His investigation into the process of *gur* making from palm sugar has established the important fact that the wastage of the juice drawn in the day time can be completely eliminated by liming the pots as is done in Madras; this process results in the perfect preservation of the day juice and a marked increase in the quality of the night juice. Demonstration has been undertaken to make this result widely known. The Economic Botanist, after testing very numerous varieties of paddy from different places in Bengal, has succeeded in isolating and multiplying several excellent types of the transplanted *aman* variety, one of which, viz., *Indrasail*, has been selected and tested with very satisfactory results against the best obtainable local varieties in several districts. *Aus* and deep water paddy are also being studied by the Economic Botanist, but the experiments are not yet in such an advanced stage as in the case of *aman*. Manurial experiments conducted with bone-meal and lime on the Dacca red soil have shown that whereas a combination of the two gives the best results in the case of jute and *rabi* crops, bone-meal without lime is most effective for rice. The study of the *ufra* disease of rice was continued during the year under report and a survey of the *ufra*-infected districts was undertaken. Further knowledge has been obtained about the habits of the minute worm called *Tylenchus Augustus* which is now recognised as the sole cause of *ufra*. The Imperial Mycologist has arrived at the conclusion that the burning of the rice stubble after harvest, if done thoroughly and on a large scale, will save the subsequent crop. Experiments are also being made with a view to selecting an early ripening variety of deep water paddy which may avoid the worst attack of the disease.

Sericulture.

315. M. Grangeon, the Silk Expert, is still on military duty in France and his hybridising experiments are being continued by Mr. P. C. Chaudhuri,

Superintendent of the Berhampore Central Nursery. Miss M. L. Cleghorn is carrying on her cross-breeding experiments which are full of promise.

Mr. H. M. Lefroy, the Imperial Silk Specialist, has not yet submitted a report on the results of the enquiries conducted by him. As stated in the last year's report, the whole question of the future policy to be followed in regard to the silk industry in Bengal is in abeyance, pending Mr. Lefroy's report.

Fisheries.

316. It has been decided by the Secretary of State that the post of the Fisheries Expert in Bengal and Bihar and Orissa shall be made permanent with effect from the 5th December, 1915. An important event in the year under report was the discovery that the Indian carp breeds in certain tanks as well as in running water. The importance of this fact lies in the possibilities that it affords for the cultivation in specially constructed tanks of pure carp fry unmixed with the fry of predatory fish. The subject of artificial culture of *hilsa* continued to receive attention, and though no material success has been attained in this direction, further information regarding the habits of the fish has been acquired. Three new co-operative Societies of fishermen have been established during the year under report, making the total number seven. With a view to afford the Fisheries Department facilities for research work, and for the establishment of co-operative societies, orders have been issued that when the lease of a Government fishery is about to expire, the Collector of the district shall consult the Deputy Director of Fisheries as to the desirability of departmental management, and where this is not practicable, as to the best alternative arrangement, and also as to the restrictions which are necessary for the regulation of close times and methods of fishing.

Agricultural Associations.

317. The Provincial Association held one meeting during the year under report. As in previous years the Burdwan and Presidency Divisional Associations each received a grant of Rs. 1,000 which they distributed among the different District Associations under them.

Miscellaneous.

318. During the year under report Mr. Blackwood published his report on his survey of the cattle of Bengal. His main conclusion was that owing to the climate of Bengal and the general inclination or inability to provide sufficient food to a superior animal, the best prospect of improving the breed of cattle lay in selection from the best cattle found in the Presidency. The Rangpur Dairy Farm was hitherto being conducted on this principle. But as no very substantial improvement in breed can be expected without importing superior cattle, for which there also exists some demand, and as it is a fact that the cattle of Bengal are continually replenished from Bihar, it has now been decided to retain the best of the indigenous animals which have been collected at the farm and at the same time to start a separate herd of imported cattle. An unfortunate outbreak of rinderpest resulted in serious losses in the Rangpur herd. Every attempt is being made to secure co-ordination of the work of the Departments of Agriculture and Co-operation and increasing use is being made of co-operative societies for the distribution of seed and for ameliorating the conditions of fishermen.

Jute forecast.

319. The jute forecast was based on a detailed census taken by *panchayats* of the area under jute cultivation in each union as in the last four years the *panchayats'* figures being further checked by departmental officers. This checking was formerly done by the fieldmen demonstrators of the Agricultural Department with the result that demonstration work suffered during a large portion of the agricultural season. To meet this difficulty, the staff required for purely demonstration work has been separated from the staff required for forecast work. The work of demonstration is thus no longer interrupted in the jute season.

Weather and Crops.

[Season and Crop Report of Bengal for the year 1915-16; Crop Forecasts of Bengal for the year 1915-16, Agricultural Statistics of India, Volume I.]

Character of the season.

320. The season opened with good rainfall in March, but in April and May the fall was scanty. In the latter part of May and in the month of June

excessive rainfall, especially in the districts of Eastern Bengal, interfered with the weeding of jute. In the 24-Parganas and in most of the districts of the Burdwan Division, on the other hand, the fall was defective. In July the rainfall was slightly in defect except in Mymensingh and the districts of the Chittagong Division, where it was largely in excess. A good deal of water-logging was thus caused in these districts and jute and autumn rice on low lands suffered considerably. During the period from the latter part of August up to the beginning of October further damage was done by floods to rice and jute in many parts of Eastern Bengal. In August the rainfall was defective in Western Bengal retarding the transplantation of winter rice. Normal conditions, however, prevailed in September throughout the Province. In October and November moderate and well-distributed rainfall favoured the growth of winter rice everywhere except in the districts of Jessore, Tippera and Noakhali, where the crop fared badly from excessive rain and flood. In most parts of the Burdwan Division, however, the crop suffered from drought. December was rainless. The last two months of the season were also dry. The season may be characterised as having been a fairly good one for the winter rice crop; but somewhat unfavourable for the autumn and spring crops.

The following table furnishes the estimated area and outturn in 1915-16 of *Bhadoi*, *Aghani* and *Rabi* crops as compared with the corresponding estimates of the previous year :—

NAME OF HARVESTS.	Normal area in acres.*	Area cultivated during 1914-15 in acres.*	Area cultivated during 1915-16 in acres.	Taking 100 to represent the normal outturn, how much represented the outturn for the year—	
				1914-15.	1915-16.
Bhadoi	9,251,100*	9,188,300*	8,801,900	82	82
Aghani — Winter rice.	16,579,400*	15,084,300	15,105,100	72	97
Aghani — Sugarcane	258,200*	233,400	233,500	82	85
Aghani — Other sugar-producing plants.	129,300	56,700	49,900	...	...
Rabi	5,996,200	4,931,100*	4,844,500	75	75
Total ...	32,214,200*	29,493,800*	29,034,900	...	...

* Revised since last year.

Bhadoi crops (excepting jute).

321. Sowing commenced at the normal time. The main characteristic of the season was the insufficiency of rainfall in Western Bengal which was in marked contrast with the excessive rainfall and floods in Eastern Bengal during the period of growth of the different crops. In Western Bengal, Jessore was the only district where floods did any damage to this crop. The weather conditions in Northern Bengal were, on the whole, favourable; but locusts were responsible for some injury to the crops in Malda and in the Kalimpong subdivision of Darjeeling. Bakarganj luckily escaped the heavy rain and floods that affected Eastern Bengal. Although favourable weather prevailed in this district throughout the season, the harvests fell slightly short of the normal owing to the damage caused by the rice *hispa* and other insects. In Noakhali fairly good crop outturns were obtained in spite of the floods. Insect-pests are reported to have caused damage in parts of Dacca and Jessore. The outturn of the different *Bhadoi* crops for the Province, as a whole, works out at 82 per cent. being the same figure as last year's, and that of autumn rice to 83 per cent. against 79 per cent. of last year.

Jute.

322. The marked feature of the crop of the year under report was the general decrease in area which may be attributed to the fall in jute prices after the outbreak of war. At the beginning of the season weather conditions were, on the whole, favourable. During April and the early part of May,

however, the rainfall was scanty, but at the end of the latter month and early in June it was in excess. In July the fall was about normal, and in August it was generally below normal except in East Bengal. In the low-lying areas the crop was considerably damaged by flood and on that account it had to be harvested prematurely in certain tracts. The average outturn was in consequence lowered in the Eastern Bengal districts. The *deshi* districts, on the other hand, gave fairly good outturns.

Winter rice.

323. The sowings of the broadcasted crops and the preparation of seed-beds for the transplanted crops were commenced at the usual time under favourable conditions in the Eastern Bengal Districts. In Western Bengal, especially in the districts of the Burdwan Division, the rainfall had been in defect since the beginning of the season, and both sowings and transplanting were consequently late. During the period from the middle of August to the middle of October heavy floods in parts of the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions caused considerable damage to the crop in low lands; but on the high lands a bumper crop was harvested which in some measure compensated for the outturn in the flood-affected areas. Throughout the rest of the province the season from September onwards was, on the whole, favourable except in Bankura where drought prevailed throughout, with the result that the outturn of the crop in this district fell as low as 42 per cent. Taking the province as a whole, the total percentage outturn was 97 against 72 of the previous year.

Sugarcane.

324. Owing to excessive rainfall the crop was not a good one in Eastern Bengal. In the rest of the province, however, the season was, on the whole, fairly satisfactory. The percentage outturn for the province is a little higher than that of last year, *viz.*, 85 *against* 82 per cent. of the normal.

Rabi crops.

325. Absence of rainfall during the last week of October and the first two weeks of November retarded the growth of the *rabi* crops. Good rainfall in the third week of November however somewhat improved the situation. The latter part of the season however was too dry for a good outturn, and the result was a crop returned at 75 per cent. of the normal, the same as last year. The Provincial outturn of summer rice which is included in the *rabi* returns has been estimated at 82 per cent. as against 86 per cent. last year.

Cotton.

326. The weather was favourable for the early crops in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bankura and Mymensingh, but unfavourable in Midnapore and Hill Tippera due to drought in the former and excessive rainfall in the latter district. The crop throughout the Province may be considered as only fair. The estimated outturn of cotton works out to 29,740 bales against 34,384 bales reported last year.

Area under cultivation.

327. The total cropped area is returned at 29,034,900 acres against 29,639,600 acres for the previous year. Figures for the principal crops are given in the following table :—

Name of Crops.	Normal area in acres.	Area cultivated during 1914-15 in acres.	Area cultivated during 1915-16 in acres.
Rice	22,077,700*	20,450,000*	20,945,400
Other food-grains (including *marua* and pulses).	1,755,400*	1,347,200*	1,293,400
Jute	2,643,800	2,872,600	2,086,300
Oil-seeds	2,019,200	1,778,600*	1,794,400
Tobacco	408,800	322,700	319,800
Sugarcane	258,200	233,400	233,500

* Revised since last year.

Prices.

328. The prices of rice remained practically the same as in the previous year except in the districts affected by drought or floods.

The prices in such districts, though high, were, however, kept within reasonable limits by importation from other places.

The jute market was steadier than in the previous year. The prices were, however, lower than they were before the outbreak of war. The price of

winter rice varied from Rs. 4-3 per maund at Murshidabad to Rs. 7-1 per maund at Dacca and that of autumn rice from Rs. 4 per maund at Jalpaiguri, Rangpur and Malda to Rs. 5-10 at Noakhali.

Co-operative Societies.

[Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in Bengal for the year 1915-16. Statistics of British India, Part II.—Commercial.]

Development.

329. The following table shows the expansion of the movement during the year :—

	Societies.		Membership.		Working Capital.	
	Last year.	This year.	Last year.	This year.	Last year.	This year.
					Rs.	Rs.
Central Banks ...	38	39	4,920	5,368	40,88,613	46,49,377
Agricultural	1,855	2,067	85,559	94,074	52,75,888	56,94,370
Non-agricultural ...	91	125	16,498	22,214	15,82,026	21,04,826
Supervisional Unions ...	8	12	139	177	4,525	...
Total ...	1,992	2,243	107,116	1,21,833	1,09,51,050	1,24,48,573

These figures show a decrease in the rate of progress as measured by numbers compared with that of the past four years. This is explained by the fact that the character of the year was by no means uniformly favourable owing to the occurrence of floods and famine in various parts of the Presidency, and in consequence did not present a favourable opportunity for starting new societies.

Central Banks.

330. Two new Central Banks were established during the year, but as one of the old ones was excluded from the category, the net addition to this class was only one, the total number being 39. The working capital of these banks rose from Rs. 40,88,000 to Rs. 46,00,000. The resources of Central Banks have been sufficient to meet the calls on them and their dealings during the year have been satisfactory.

Provincial Co-operative Bank.

331. The scheme for the inauguration of a Provincial Bank was again considered during the year in the light of the remarks made by the Committee on Co-operation, but it was decided to keep the proposal in abeyance for the present. Though the difficulties which were found in financing Central Banks in the earlier stages of the movement have disappeared and the majority of the banks have no difficulty in raising sufficient capital locally, the need for a Provincial Bank remains and the subject will be taken up again when financial conditions improve.

Agricultural Societies.

332. A smaller number of new agricultural societies were registered during the year than in previous years. The net addition to the number of such societies was 210, the number having risen from 1,853 to 2,063, of which 1,860 were affiliated to the Central Banks. The combined working capital of these societies rose from Rs. 52,74,969 to Rs 56,93,521, an increase of about 8 per cent. In spite of the somewhat unfavourable circumstances of the year there was some increase in the amount of deposits by members and decrease in the percentage of overdue loans. An advance has also been made in the education of the people in the principles of co-operation and in the removal of defects. An interesting experiment made during the year was the formation of the Khelar Irrigation Society in the district of Midnapore for the purpose of the irrigation and drainage of paddy fields.

Non-Agricultural Societies.

333. The number of non-agricultural societies increased from 91 to 125, the marked advance being in the number of weavers' societies which rose from 5 to 17. Fishermen's societies are still in the experimental stage. One of the principal objects in view is the lease of fisheries to societies of fishermen instead of to middlemen, and when this has been arranged the societies

are confronted with the difficulty of disposing of the catch otherwise than through the middlemen who used to absorb all the profits.

The importance of the introduction of improved agriculture through the medium of co-operative societies has been fully understood by the officers of both the Agricultural and Co-operative Departments, and much progress has been made during the year in certain places in that direction.

Horticulture.

[Annual Report of the Royal Botanic Garden and other Gardens in Calcutta and of the Lloyd Botanic Garden, Darjeeling, for the year 1915-16.]

334. Cold weather annuals were adversely affected by the rainfall in November 1915, but otherwise weather conditions were practically normal. During the year the formation of the *Economic* Garden appreciably advanced, and the small lake near Roxburgh's monument was connected with the rest of the garden system and a large portion of Roxburgh avenue was renewed. A new vista—Venusta vista—the longest in the garden was also opened out; a considerable portion of the river bank was revetted and the stores ghât renewed. **The Royal Botanic Garden, General.**

335. Over 40,000 plants and nearly 1,000 packets of seeds were distributed, including about 120 lbs. of seeds of various specimens of trees, etc., for the new Capital at Delhi. About 300 packets of seeds were received from all quarters of the globe. Particular attention was given to the experimental cultivation of various medicinal plants. *Hyoscyamus niger* and *Digitalis purpurea* gave promising results and the cultivation of *Ipecacuanha* at the Cinchona plantation made great progress. **Plant and seed distribution.**

336. About 7,000 specimens were added to the Herbarium, but the distribution of duplicates was hampered by the war. **Herbarium and Library.**

337. No purely garden publications were issued during the year. **Publication.**

338. About 160 species of trees and shrubs were planted out, and the garden is much richer in specimens than it was a few years ago. Over 9,000 plants, 4,700 dozens of annual seedlings, 500 bulbs and tubers and 1,600 packets of seeds were distributed, and special collections of seeds of Himalayan specimens from both high and low levels were made. **Lloyd Botanic Garden, Darjeeling.**

339. Work in these gardens proceeded on normal lines and requires no comment. **Calcutta Gardens.**

Cinchona Plantations and Factory.

[Report of the Government Cinchona Plantations and Factory for the year 1915-16.]

340. The rainfall registered during the year on the Mungpoo Plantation was 109·24 inches, being 13·58 inches below the average for 37 years; while at Munsong 97·49 inches was registered as compared with 94·06 inches, the average for the last 15 years. **General.**

341. The total area with a full complement of cinchona on both the Plantations was 2,295 acres as compared with 2,552 acres in 1914-15. The estimated total number of trees was 3,091,100, being 2,450,000 on Munsong and 641,100 on Mungpo. During the year the harvest yielded 569,337 lbs. of dry bark as compared with 680,375 lbs. in the preceding year. **Plantations.**

342. The total quantity of bark worked at the Quinine Factory was 960,570 lbs. against 764,722 lbs. in 1914-15 and the quantity of sulphate of quinine manufactured amounted to 41,814½ lbs. as compared with 34,650 lbs. in the previous year. The other products were 1,227 lbs. of cinchona febrifuge, 1,429 lbs. of quinidine and 640 lbs. of residual alkaloids. The quinine reserve at the close of the year amounted to 165,000 lbs. against 163,000 in the preceding year. This reserve is valued in the stock account at Rs. 28,09,148-12-9. but its value according to current rates would be in the neighbourhood of 60 lakhs. **Outturn.**

Forests.

[Forest Administration Report for the year 1915-16. Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*)—Finance and Revenue.]

Administration.

343. There was a small change in the actual areas of the reserved forests under the Forest Department due to the inclusion of 348 acres on account of the Buxa Chiko and Buxa Poro extensions in the Buxa Forest Reserve in Jalpaiguri. The important work of demarcation has been completed in all the forest divisions except the Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts where some areas remain yet to be demarcated. No new working plans were sanctioned during the year.

Communications and Buildings.

344. Eight miles of cart-road, 16 miles of bridle-path and 5 miles of foot-path were constructed during the year. The total expenditure on communications amounted to Rs. 25,500 against Rs. 38,987 in the previous year. The construction of rest-houses for subordinates in Darjeeling and Buxa and of the rest-house in the north of the Diana forest in Jalpaiguri was completed during the year. The total expenditure on new buildings and repairs amounted to Rs. 28,949 against Rs. 62,643 in the previous year.

Forest offences.

345. There was an increase in the total number of forest offences reported during the year, the number being 2,351 against 1,835 in the previous year. This increase and the result that 94 per cent. of the cases disposed of during the year ended in conviction shows that greater vigilance was being exercised by the patrols.

Protection from fires.

346. The area in which fire protection was attempted during the year comprised 370,498 acres, and the percentage of successful protection was 98·5. The cost per square mile was Rs. 10-8-5 as compared with Rs. 8-15-10 in 1914-15. The increased cost is ascribed to the prolonged drought which necessitated a more expensive fire staff. The area burnt over amounted to 5,468 acres against 6,143 acres in the previous year. In 9 out of 22 cases the causes of the fires could not be ascertained.

Protection from cattle.

347. In the reserved forests the area open to grazing was 663 square miles against 686 in the previous year. There was no change in the area open to grazing in the protected and unclassed forests. The number of cattle impounded during the year was 4,778 against 2,707 in the previous year, and 3,005, the average for the last three years. The chief increase was in the Buxa and Jalpaiguri Divisions and was due to better work done by the subordinate staff and to the continuance of the disc system which rendered detention easier. The most extensive damage resulting from grazing is reported to have occurred in the hills and the river-bed forests of the Duars and Terai.

Exploitation.

348. The lease granted to Messrs. Shaw Wallace & Co., Calcutta, for the collection of nettle fibre from the reserved forests of the Darjeeling district was cancelled during the year, as the Company found it impossible to prepare fibre at a profit. Messrs. Burn & Co. also expressed their inability to start work in connection with the concessions granted to them for the extraction of timber and bamboos from the forests in the Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts till after the end of the war. Negotiations will be resumed as soon as Messrs. Burn & Co. are ready to proceed. Minor forest produce continued to be disposed of generally under pegmits at fixed rates.

A scheme for exploiting cane on a four-year rotation has been drawn up for the Buxa forests, and has been put into operation.

The last season's Khedda operations conducted under agreement by Babu Kamala Kanta Bhattacharji in the Tista Division resulted in the capture of 39 elephants. In Chittagong Osi Meah and Ahmed Meah captured, respectively, 10 and 9 elephants.

Mortality caused by wild animals.

349. The number of persons reported to have been killed by tigers in the Sundarbans was 60 against 79 in the previous year, and the number of tigers killed during the year was 35.

General.

350. The scheme for the enlargement of the Kurseong Forest School so as to provide for the training of Rangers in Bengal and Assam is under preparation, but it is not expected to come into operation till after the end of the war.

Investigations into the life-history of the root-fungus discovered by the Forest Zoologist are being carried on in the Kurseong, Jalpaiguri and Buxa Forest Divisions. Although the fungus has been found in all parts of the plains *sál* forest of the Kurseong Division, it has not yet been definitely recognized in any hill forests. The records of these investigations are being maintained. The Forest Botanist and the Imperial Mycologist visited the Buxa forests and the latter identified the fungus as *Polyporus Shoreæ* a new species. The Imperial Mycologist began a second series of inoculation experiments as the first series had given negative results. Owing to the deputation of the Forest Zoologist to Mesopotamia the results of his investigations into the life-history of the insects affecting *sundri* are not ready for publication. The question of appointing a whole-time Sylviculturist for this Presidency has been deferred on financial grounds. Pending the creation of such an appointment it has been decided to place one of the officers of the department on special deputation on this work in the Sundarbans.

351. During the year under review the total revenue fell from Rs. 11,99,702 in 1914-15 to Rs. 11,74,795, and the expenditure decreased from Rs 6,72,004 to Rs. 5,90,843. The surplus amounted to Rs. 5,83,952 against Rs. 5,27,698 in the preceding year. There was a large decrease in the revenue of the Sundarbans Division due to the depression in trade which resulted in less sales. This more than counterbalanced the higher receipts which were obtained in Darjeeling, Kurseong, Jalpaiguri and Buxa Divisions. The total revenue and the surplus during the year correspond almost exactly with the average figures for the five years from 1904-05 to 1908-09, while the surplus is less by 4 lakhs than that of 1913-14 and by 2½ lakhs than that of the quinquennial period from 1909-10 to 1913-14; thus the financial effect of the war has been to set back the advance made in the five years before its outbreak. Financial results.

Manufactures and Mines.

[Statistics of British India, Part I.—Industrial.]

352. Owing to the unusual fall in the price of jute which occurred after the outbreak of war, the area under jute in this Presidency decreased from 2,872,604 acres with an outturn of 9,308,018 bales in 1914 to 2,086,270 acres with an estimated outturn of 6,506,066 bales in the year 1915. Sixty-six jute mills were at work during the year as against 67 in 1914, employing daily on an average 247,850 operatives, an increase of 11,556. The number of looms and spindles working in these mills were 38,942 and 792,591, respectively, as against 37,541 and 789,236 in 1914. The nominal rupee and sterling Capital employed was Rs. 8,74,51,000 and £3,007,000 and the paid-up Capital Rs. 8,27,25,900 and £2,657,536. Jute.

353. Thirteen cotton mills were at work during 1915, giving daily employment to 11,641 persons against 15 mills and 10,349 persons in 1914. The number of looms and spindles were 2,965 and 392,713 spindles, respectively. The nominal Capital employed was Rs. 1,63,00,000 and £200,000. Cotton.

354. The area under tea in 1915 was 161,300 acres and the quantity of the tea manufactured 89,526,057 lbs. compared with 75,373,201 lbs. in 1914. There were 300 plantations employing a daily average of 106,671 permanent and 26,670 temporary hands. Tea.

355. Although the number of coal-mines worked during the year 1915 decreased from 178 to 176, the total output showed a very substantial increase, being 4,975,460 tons compared with 4,424,540 tons in the previous year. The daily average number of persons employed in these mines, both above and below ground, also rose and was 42,093 against 38,879 in 1914. The supply of labour was unusually plentiful, owing chiefly to a bad harvest in the previous year, and the scarcity prevailing in the Bankura district. Coal.

356. The total amount of iron raised was 2,243 tons, an increase of 1,039 tons over the output of the previous year, and its value was estimated at Rs. 5,545. The increase is attributed to the increased requirements of the Bengal Iron and Steel Company, Limited, of Kulti. Iron ore.

Saltpetre and salt.

357. The quantity of refined saltpetre produced in the two licensed saltpetre refineries in the Presidency during the year was 3,139 maunds against 1,824 maunds in the previous year. The increase was due to greater demand on account of the European war. The quantity of salt educed in the process of refinement of saltpetre was 40 maunds as compared with 24 maunds in 1914-15.

Paper.

358. There were three paper mills working during the year 1915 and employed 3,573 persons daily against 3,499 in 1914. These mills produced 25,910 tons of paper valued at Rs. 77,48,840 during the calendar year 1915.

Silk.

359. As reported last year there was only one regular factory working and it employed a smaller number of hands. There was, however, a considerable number of establishments producing silk in larger or smaller quantities. It is hoped that the industry will expand as a result of the efforts now being made to eradicate the pebrine disease.

Sugar.

360. The acreage under sugar crops decreased from 290,100 in 1914-15 to 283,400 in 1915-16. The only regular sugar factory in the Province is at Cossipore in the 24-Parganas. Seven hundred and fifty-seven hands were employed in this factory. There was also a sugar mill attached to a rice mill at Howrah.

MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES IN EACH DIVISION.

[Board of Revenue's Land Revenue Administration Report for 1915-16.]

Burdwan.

361. The coal mining industry in the district of Burdwan was affected by the war, but in the latter part of the year the coal market recovered owing to the demand for coal in Western India. In the Serampore subdivision of the Hooghly district the nine jute mills employed on war work made large profits and gave remunerative employment to a large number of labourers. The jute and cotton mills in the Howrah district also did well. In the Bankura district the manufacture of silk, *tasar*, cotton cloths, brass and bell metal wares suffered considerably owing to the scarcity that prevailed in the district. The weaving industry received substantial relief from Government in the shape of dyes and other commodities and the assistance of the Relief Committee in finding purchasers for manufactured articles. The bell metal industries of Kharar in the Midnapore district have been dull owing to the difficulty in obtaining raw materials and to other causes consequent on the European war. Rice mills in that district worked both by steam and oil engines are increasing in number and are reported to be profitable. The two cotton mills and the two cloth printing and dyeing works in the Serampore subdivision of the Hooghly district are thriving and the handlooms in Serampore and many other places continued to turn out cotton cloths.

Presidency.

362. In the Sadar subdivision of the 24-Parganas there are jute and yarn mills, a shipping yard of the India General Steam Navigation Company, rice and bone mills, tanneries and petroleum depôts, while the Barrackpore subdivision is noted for its jute and paper mills and the Government rifle and ammunition factories. All these mills and factories are in a flourishing condition. In the Nadia district weaving is carried on by a large number of Muhammadans in the Ranaghat, Kushtia, Meherpur and Chuadanga subdivisions, who manufacture *dhotis*, *saris*, bed-sheets, wraps, coating, twill, sheeting, etc., which find a ready market. The Mohini Cotton Mills, Limited, of Kushtia is doing much useful work and is training many artizans. In the Meherpur subdivision, leather goods such as saddles and shoes, and bell metal utensils of good quality are manufactured. In Chuadanga, the manufacture of sugar from date palm *gur* was carried on on a large scale and the produce found a good market. A leather tanning factory, worked by steam with up-to-date machinery, was opened at Berhampore by a limited company, of which the Maharaja of Cassimbazar is the Chairman. The quality of the leather goods turned out is reported to be very good. In Khulna the only manufactures worth mentioning are date palm *gur*, cocoanut oil, cotton cloth and pottery, consisting of tiles, glazed earthenware, dolls and images.

Dacca.

363. In the district of Dacca the principal articles of trade are Dacca cloth and embroidery work. The iron factory at Dacca is doing a brisk business. Date sugar is extensively manufactured in the Manikganj subdivision. In Faridpur *gur* is prepared from date juice and sugarcane. The

three oil mills at Jhalakati, Nalchiti and Bhola in the Bakarganj district continued to work.

364. In Chittagong, the Shalimar works of Messrs. Turner, Morrison & Co., the ginning factory of Messrs. Jamal Brothers and the Burma Oil Company were fully employed. The Weaving School at Cox's Bazar was placed on a permanent footing during the year, as it has become popular with the local Maghs. Jute baling is the most important industry in the district of Tippera. Chittagong.

365. In the Rajshahi Division there is very little organised industry except in the case of tea, which is confined to the districts of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri. During the year the tea industry was in a very flourishing condition. The condition of the silk industry in Malda, Rajshahi and Bogra was unsatisfactory. At Pabna the oil and *surki* mills continued to thrive, but the hosiery companies were hampered by insufficiency in the supply of cotton and woollen thread. Rajshahi.

Working of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (XII of 1911).

[Annual Report on the working of the above mentioned Act in Bengal for the year 1915. Statistics of British India, Part I.—Industries.]

366. The number of factories at the close of the year 1915 was 383 against 361 in 1914. Twenty-eight new factories were brought under the operation of the Act, viz., 5 in Calcutta, 15 in the 24-Parganas, 3 in Dacca and 1 in each of the districts of Burdwan, Howrah, Dinajpur, Chittagong and Tippera. The daily average number of operatives employed during the year was 378,235 as compared with 354,886 in 1914. In 85 factories work was carried on by means of shifts and in 118 with stoppages after intervals of six hours; 47 factories were exempted under Part C., Schedule I of the Act, and in 124 factories other arrangements were in force. Number of factories and system of work.

367. One hundred factories were inspected once, 96 twice, 38 three times and 123 more than three times. Only 17 factories were not inspected during the year. The majority of inspections were made in Calcutta and the districts of Burdwan, Hooghly, Howrah, 24-Parganas, Dacca and Tippera. Inspection.

368. The sanitary condition of the outlying factories was generally good. The question of hand-service latrines in factories in densely populated areas was examined by the Sanitary officers of this Government in conjunction with the Chief Inspector of Factories. There is room for very considerable improvement, and it is hoped that the municipalities concerned will take advantage of the suggestions made by these officers. There was a marked increase in the accommodation provided for workers by the large textile factories. A number of factories in the Howrah district still suffer from an inadequate supply of filtered water, but the water-supply in factories in other districts was generally sufficient. Housing, sanitary arrangements, water-supply, etc.

369. Apart from some cases of malarial fever in the 24-Parganas and Howrah and small-pox in the Serampore subdivision, the general health of the operatives was fair throughout the year. General health of operatives.

370. There was no noticeable change in the rates of wages paid during the year, and the general condition of the factory employees was satisfactory. Wages and general condition.

371. The statutory rules in respect of the employment of women and children were properly enforced except in some jute mills manufacturing sand bags for military purposes. To facilitate the supply of these articles many of the restrictions were relaxed by Government under section 56 of the Act. In all 23,202 children were certified under section 7 of the Act by the various certifying Surgeons of Factories in this Presidency. Of these 10,186 were certified by the whole-time certifying Surgeon. Employment of women and children.

372. The number of accidents reported during the year was 1,293 or 120 more than in the preceding year, of which 42 were fatal. The increase occurred chiefly in engineering works engaged in the manufacture of munitions and was due partly to the larger number of persons employed and partly to the speeding up of urgent work. The increase in numbers did Accidents.

not, however, materially increase the percentage of accidents to the total labour force which still remained low in comparison with other provinces.

Fencing of machinery.

373. The question of fencing dangerous machinery continued to receive special attention. This is a question of great importance : it is found that a higher standard of fencing is required for the proper protection of Indian workers than is in vogue in Home factories, and much still remains to be done.

Prosecutions.

374. Three men who were prosecuted for smoking inside the Dum Dum Arms and Ammunition Factory were convicted under section 43(*b*) of the Act.

Fire.

375. Two cases of serious fire were reported during the year—a jute press at Dacca and a cotton mill at Howrah being destroyed.

Strikes.

376. There were some temporary strikes in some jute mills and in a cotton mill, but none of them assumed a serious aspect, and in one case only had the assistance of the Police to be obtained.

Trade.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1915-16. Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the Bengal Presidency. Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India with the British Empire and Foreign countries. Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India. Review of the Trade of India. Statistical Abstract for British India, Vol. I.—Commercial Statistics].

I.—FOREIGN SEA-BORNE TRADE.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1915-16].

Foreign Trade.

377. In spite of the fact that in 1914-15, war covered eight months only, whereas in 1915-16 the cloud overshadowed the whole year, the total trade of Bengal increased by 7 per cent. and, although below 1913-14, is greater than the average for the five years ending with 1912-13. There certainly was a smaller coasting trade, less by 6 per cent., but the foreign trade of the Province advanced by 9 per cent. In the foreign trade, while exports have risen by Rs. 17·01 crores or 23 per cent., imports have decreased in value Rs. 4·72 crores or 8 per cent.: the net increase as shown above was, therefore, Rs. 12·29 crores. Calcutta absorbed 97 per cent. of the foreign trade : the balance belongs to Chittagong. Various factors have interfered with the sea-borne trade of Bengal in the past year : imports and exports were both affected by a smaller amount of available tonnage than was desirable ; both were further influenced by the great height to which freights rose : and imports were farther subject to a great advance in the price of raw material at home and in the cost of labour. The extent to which the foreign trade of the province is centred in the chief port, Calcutta, will be apparent from the following figures (*in thousands of rupees*) :—

	Province.	Calcutta.	Chittagong.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Merchandise—			
Imports ...	52,28,32	51,67,98	60,34
Exports ...	91,17,98	87,88,24	3,29,74

The trade of the Port of Chittagong is made up chiefly of exports of tea and raw jute.

Treasure.

378. Throughout the year the movements of treasure and of all financial transactions have been overshadowed by the war. The total imports of gold and silver on private account amounted to Rs. 3 crores as compared with Rs. 2·82 crores in 1914-15. Of this Rs. 1 crore were in gold, most of which came from Australia and China. Exports fell from Rs. 43·93 lakhs to Rs. 24·72 lakhs, of which, Rs. 14·04 lakhs were of gold. No gold or silver on Government account was imported or exported during the year. Of the total imports of treasure into British India, Calcutta's share was 25 per cent.

Imports of Merchandise.

Principal articles imported into Calcutta.

379. The following table shows the comparative importance of principal articles imported into Calcutta :—

	Average value for the 5 years 1909-1910 to 1913-14.	1913-1914.	1914-1915.	1915-1916.	Percentage of proportion to total imports of merchandise.	Difference between 1914-1915 and 1915-1916.	
						Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cotton goods	31,76,49,111	29,81,66,451	24,98,85,036	29,76,63,468	20·78	4,63,01,372	
Sugar	5,97,56,965	6,46,72,661	4,04,77,808	7,28,10,333	14·79	3,23,32,467	...
Metals and ores	5,76,09,745	9,05,17,864	5,60,72,486	4,75,96,530	9·21	...	84,76,226
Machinery and millwork ...	2,15,43,329	2,30,41,526	2,12,70,906	2,08,21,960	3·61	...	20,19,546
Oils	1,61,94,350	2,05,56,064	2,11,19,237	1,89,74,256	3·67	...	21,36,121
Railway plant and rolling stock.	1,84,04,043	4,07,58,689	4,47,45,937	1,73,35,646	3·37	...	2,73,32,410
Hardware, excluding cutlery and electroplated ware.	1,07,11,618	1,42,31,369	96,32,944	93,86,494	1·81	...	2,25,498
Salt	59,96,347	65,36,920	58,76,926	90,61,252	1·56	31,84,327	...
Spices	62,16,329	68,52,251	71,37,010	75,63,736	1·46	4,26,726	...
Tea-chests, cadre or in sections	51,83,564	60,89,792	61,79,594	71,02,674	1·37	9,23,080	...
Provisions and oilman's stores	56,22,453	65,57,463	62,25,428	60,25,706	1·17	...	1,97,722
Liquors, including medicated and perfumed spirits.	60,91,963	69,80,949	66,15,775	59,56,659	1·14	3,41,884	...
Chemicals and chemical preparations.	36,76,443	43,33,045	41,68,125	46,01,728	1·03	14,33,603	...
Instruments, apparatus and app iances.	53,31,351	72,86,157	64,49,588	55,61,112	1·07	1,11,539	...
Rubber	9,06,339	20,81,134	27,30,180	46,55,491	·90	19,25,311	...
Drugs and medicines (excluding chemicals and narcotics).	35,57,051	43,81,335	39,24,907	44,73,382	·86	5,48,475	...
Grain, pulse and flour ...	7,24,938	2,93,325	14,06,671	43,76,291	·83	31,77,620	...
Building and engineering materials.	24,01,418	34,16,923	35,17,740	43,61,264	·82	7,43,524	...
Motor-cars and motor-cycles and parts the eof.	24,89,457	34,37,654	36,10,736	41,33,217	·81	5,22,481	...
Glass and glassware	46,47,692	60,40,963	36,30,621	41,01,817	·79	4,45,196	...
Paper and pasteboard ...	29,78,377	40,77,304	39,47,50·9	40,99 318	·79	1,51,7	...
Matches	24,16,930	30,93,5·9	30,01,618	37,68,7·2	·72	7,66,863	...
Haberdashery and millinery	34,91,122	39,5·,·83	34,00,402	31,37,078	·67	7,37,325	...
Tobacco	28,90,477	25,15,149	26,03,164	31,71,046	·61	5,67,882	...
Articles imported by post ...	25,34,641	25,51,926	25,45,981	29,40,709	·57	3,94,728	...
Paints and painters' materials	26,05,219	34,39 337	33,20,535	28,24,468	·55	...	4,96,167
Woollen goods	73,86,788	89,81,090	44,97,991	26,82,86	·52	...	18 06,709

The year has been one of warfare, and trade in many ways has suffered thereby. Yet the decrease of 8 per cent. in value of Calcutta's imports of merchandise is only great in comparison with the abnormally large imports of 1913-14 : they are above the quinquennial period ending with 1912-13 by 2 per cent. In the paragraphs following, the more important imports are separately dealt with.

Cotton Manufactures.

380. The figures for 1915-16 again show a decline from those of the previous year of approximately 16 per cent. Imports of piece-goods have fallen by 14 per cent. in quantity and by 15 per cent. in value. Of the total imports, 97 per cent. still come under the heading of British. Imports of grey goods show a decline from the United Kingdom of 130 million yards or 12½ per cent., while those from foreign countries have increased by 11·25 million yards or 139 per cent. Japanese productions mainly account for this increase, the total value of her imports of piece-goods into this port rising from Rs. 12·22 lakhs last year to Rs. 34·39 lakhs in the period under review. Imports under the heading of grey yarns show a decrease of one million pounds in weight and Rs. 1·20 lakhs in value or by 22 per cent. Imports of cotton hosiery fell off considerably during the year, from Rs. 57·69 lakhs to Rs. 29·59 lakhs. The United Kingdom trade shows only a slight decrease, the bulk being accounted for in the imports from Japan, which fell in value from Rs. 52·65 to 26·78 lakhs. Besides turning her attention to all kinds of textile goods, Japan is also finding new markets for her hosiery productions, which accounts for the decline in exports to this port.

Sugar.

381. The chief feature perhaps in the sugar market in Calcutta during the past year was the increase to 10 per cent., as from the 1st March 1916, in the rate of duty leviable. Accordingly for the last month of the year the cost of importat on was increase l to the extent of Rs 2·17 lakhs. The protection thus accorded to the In lian sugar trade should greatly increase her area of cultivation and production. The highest price for Java 23 D. S. was in May, 1915, when it stood at Rs. 18 annas 12 per cwt., since then it fell to Rs. 15 annas 15 in October, and at the close of the year stood at Rs. 16 annas 9 per cwt. In the year Mauritian sugar averaged Rs. 16 annas 2 as compared with Rs. 9 annas 2 per cwt. in 1914-15.

Metals.

382. Calcutta's trade in metals has been more upset by the war than any other important impoft. Supplies have been restricted, the demand for war material great and to the detriment of all requirements for civilian

purposes: consequently, prices have risen to an almost unknown height, which has restricted demand in every direction. In Bengal construction work of all kinds has been reduced to a minimum, and on all sides only such undertakings as are absolutely necessary are being continued. It is not a matter for surprise then that there has been again a heavy decrease in importations: quantity has fallen by 28 per cent., though values are only lower by 15 per cent.

Mineral Oils.

383. The feature of this trade has been the high prices ruling during the past 15 months due chiefly to the closing of the Russian and Roumanian sources; also to many tank steamers having been lost and others withdrawn for Government service.

The high prices ruling for foreign oils have been Burma's opportunity, and imports were greater by 5 per cent., the value also improving by 6 per cent. Kerosene oil rose in value by 3 per cent., and lubricating oil by 24 per cent. Fewer candles came to hand, falling by 12 per cent., to 1·55 million lbs. valued at Rs. 3·94 lakhs.

Railway Plant and Rolling Stock.

384. Carriages and wagons fell by 76 per cent. to Rs. 77 lakhs from Rs. 3·27 crores; locomotives from Rs. 1·33 crores to Rs. 82·62 lakhs and all other headings approximately in the same proportion. There has been a great stoppage of private orders owing to the excessive cost of goods and the difficulty of procuring them. From the United Kingdom we received Rs. 1·76 crores or 99 per cent. of the total. The United States supplied Rs. 1·28 lakhs and all other countries only Rs. 65,398.

Hardware and Cutlery.

385. As usual the United Kingdom absorbed the lion's share, 69 per cent. (Rs. 69·32 lakhs), Germany's trade from Rs. 9·04 lakhs fell to only Rs. 77,694 (prize court goods) and Austria-Hungary, which sent Rs. 2·34 lakhs in 1914-15, sent *nil*. But in place of this trade from the Central Empires, Japan sent Rs. 7·85 lakhs against Rs. 1·99 last year, and Sweden Rs. 1·98 lakhs. It has also been a great opportunity for the United States of which she has taken full advantage, her trade rising in value from Rs. 9·55 to Rs. 17·56 lakhs, her cheaper productions more readily representing the lost German trade in popular fancy here.

Salt.

386. The total imports and the stocks at the *golas* at the close of the year show an increase due to the low stocks at the end of 1914-15. With the exception of Aden and Bombay all other supplying countries show an increase. The decrease from Aden is due to the unsettled state of the country, and from Bombay to scarcity of tonnage. The decrease in consumption is on account of the high prices in the salt market that ruled throughout the year. The fall during the second quarter was due to increased stocks consequent on larger importations. The year closed with abnormal prices on account of very high freights and the anticipated enhancement of the salt duty which, on the 1st March, 1916, was increased from Re. 1 to Re. 1 annas 4 per Indian maund.

Glass and Glassware.

387. The chief feature of the glassware trade has been the marked expansion in imports from Japan: in the past three years the trade done has stood at Rs. 7·90, Rs. 12·28 and Rs. 25·40 lakhs, and the latter is 62 per cent. of the glassware imports.

Matches.

388. The expansion in the match trade was enormous, as much as 26 per cent. This trade, which should be indigenous, has been captured by Japan. No less than Rs. 31·17 lakhs came from that country while Sweden and Norway combined only sent Rs. 6·65 lakhs.

Import trade of Calcutta with other countries.

389. The following statement shows how the import trade (merchandise only) of Calcutta with foreign countries was distributed:—

	1914-15. Rs. (lakhs).	1915-16. Rs. (lakhs).	1914-15. Per cent. of total.	1915-16. Per cent. of total.
United Kingdom ...	4,165	3,306	74·1	64·0
Other British Possessions ...	217	249	3·8	4·8
Java	456	685	8·1	13·2
United States	156	268	2·8	5·1
Japan	161	223	2·9	4·3
Italy	37	60	·6	1·1
Germany	128	15	2·2	·3
Austria-Hungary ...	32	·1	·6	·002
Total Imports (including other countries).	5,621	5,168	100	100

Exports of Merchandise.

390. The following table gives the values of the more important products in the export trade of Calcutta and their comparative importance :— Foreign trade.

	Average for the 5 years, 1909-09 to 1913-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	Percentage of proportion to total merchandise exported.	Difference between 1914-15 and 1915-16.	
						Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Jute manufactures	17,66,70,756	26,19,96,709	23,17,78,911	37,08,80,337	42·22	13,11,51,516	...
Jute, raw	17,69,13,000	29,02,44,250	11,95,80,802	16,98,94,102	19·29	5,06,96,009	...
Tea	8,54,51,216	10,55,55,852	11,43,88,153	14,66,73,307	16·73	3,22,71,154	...
Hides and skins, raw	7,26,63,404	9,47,59,476	5,80,11,175	6,87,37,202	7·16	1,07,26,027	...
Grain, pulse and flour	7,29,47,616	6,56,69,230	8,23,01,122	7,04,15,143	7·23	...	1,27,75,979
Lac	2,33,20,401	1,91,46,417	1,49,43,263	1,71,23,280	1·96	11,80,277	...
Seeds	4,68,44,852	3,59,07,810	3,63,69,972	1,59,31,122	1·63	...	2,03,37,900
Opium	7,21,99,741	9,01,37,963	1,76,94,585	1,67,01,840	1·65	...	99,92,745
Cotton, raw	87,69,943	2,02,61,472	1,06,41,695	1,16,80,147	1·23	9,88,682	...
Indigo	27,20,943	17,74,979	69,44,289	87,42,997	1·00	19,46,808	...
Coal, coke and patent fuel ...	71,92,726	69,13,436	62,78,603	72,61,696	·74	20,83,093	...
Saltpetre	27,18,476	29,94,190	41,60,762	57,08,849	·66	15,47,851	...
Metals and ores	23,01,117	59,26,121	41,75,726	56,19,180	·64	14,43,544	...
Hemp, raw	30,39,395	46,40,749	46,67,899	51,02,338	·59	4,34,494	...
Dyeing and tanning substances—other than indigo.	18,76,278	24,61,707	20,96,614	30,81,613	·35	9,84,999	...
Oils	24,04,161	23,66,233	24,61,462	23,67,274	·24	0,05,772	...
Mica	29,52,581	33,51,461	25,04,272	28,83,198	·31	3,78,926	...
Provisions and oilmen's stores ...	20,07,496	27,43,218	22,89,003	22,39,417	·25	...	49,586
Manures	24,80,290	23,41,918	21,99,119	19,78,159	·22	...	1,20,960
Oilcakes	23,86,283	49,37,171	29,77,965	27,75,641	·30	...	2,02,324

391. Throughout the year the export of jute and jute manufactures has been under restriction to one country or another, and the control of Government on these commodities becomes stricter and stricter. But, nevertheless, the year has been one of abundant prosperity to the industry. Blest with cheap raw material, an insatiable demand from nearly all countries not at war with us and a Government demand, which has appropriated a considerable percentage of the looms, the local mills have made profits undreamt of in the years of peaceful progress. The increase was 26 per cent. with a record output and although the total value was less than in 1913-14 (when the raw material controlled a very high range of prices), it was greater than in any other year and exceeded the previous year by 40 per cent. With the stoppage of the mid-European demand raw jute has gone away in smaller quantities than in previous years; but compared with 1914-15 the tonnage was larger by 23 per cent. and the value by 26 per cent. But when the shipments of bags and cloth are scrutinised, the expansiveness of this great trade is emphasised; both have reached a summit never before approached; the former in number are better than in the previous year by 100 per cent., and the latter in yardage by 13 per cent.; values are higher by 60 and 35 per cent., respectively: combined, the increased value represents 47 per cent. Even "other" manufactures (twist, yarn and twine) are larger by 30 per cent. In 1914-15 the jute trade represented 53 per cent. of Calcutta's exports; in the past year it has risen to 60 per cent. On the 1st March 1916 an export duty was imposed on all jute shipped from British India with the exception of war bags. Jute and jute manufactures.

392. Tea has again been blessed with a record production and good prices. A slight cloud gathered on its horizon in the last month of the past year when an export duty of Re. 1-8 per 100 lbs. was imposed: it works out to approximately 3 pies per lb. Each year now constitutes a record on its predecessor in the matter of tea production and export. In the past year this is represented by an exported quantity greater by 10 per cent. and a value actually higher by 28 per cent. Tea.

393. Trade in raw cotton has risen in volume by 8 per cent. and in value by 9 per cent., but exports of raw cotton are still in quantity less by 30 per cent. than those for 1913-14, but are 38 per cent. better than the average for the previous 5 years. Cotton.

Raw cotton prices at Liverpool have wonderfully improved; at the opening of the year now reviewed spot price for mid-American was 5·52*d.* per lb.; in August it began to rise and at the end of December stood at 7·92*d.* per lb.;

in January the price went as high as 8·35*d.* per lb. and the year closed at 7·73*d.* These satisfactory advances should ensure a much larger area for the 1916-17 crop. Japan, by far our best customer, absorbed 64 per cent. of the total export. Italy took 12 per cent., the United States of America 9 per cent. (an unusual increase), France took 8 per cent. and Norway, which was formerly supplied from Hamburg, 3·358 cwts.

Indigo.

394. Indigo is one of the very few chief products of India which since the war commenced has not come under any restrictions. The high prices ruling have induced an increased acreage in India of 112 per cent.. equal to 314,300 acres, but owing to climatic influences the outturn per acre fell from 19 to 14 lbs. and the yield of dye (39·900 cwts.) has only expanded by ·58 per cent. In Madras only was the season favourable. In Bihar both the Java and Sumatrana crops suffered either from want of moisture or from floods ; much of the upcountry Sumatrana seed also was of poor quality.

Coal.

395. The coal produced in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa in 1915 was 15,686,816 tons, an increase of 611,229 tons or 4 per cent. For the whole of British India 16,352,480 tons were produced, the quantity rising by 624,849 tons or 4 per cent. Exports of coal were restricted from 1st October 1915, except to British territory, though special exemptions were permitted to some neutral ports. In the absence of sea-borne tonnage and with freights high and continually rising, much coal formerly shipped from Calcutta for Indian ports was despatched by rail direct from the pits to Bombay, Karachi. Madras and other places.

Saltpetre.

396. The history of saltpetre in the past year has not only been one of commercial progress but of severe State control. The requirements for munitions were so great that only small quantities of 25 per cent. refraction were released for manurial purposes early in the year to Ceylon and Mauritius and to Hong Kong, where it is used in the manufacture of crackers. As a consequence the United Kingdom absorbed 79 per cent. of the total exports, the latter rising by 12 per cent. in volume and in value by 40 per cent. Australia has taken 3,132 cwts. low refraction for canning meat and the United States of America and Japan for munitions. The total exports were greater than in any year since 1909-10 and the demand caused prices to rise considerably; the average for the year being Rs. 11-13-3 against Rs. 9-8-3 per maund. Farukhabad refined, which stood at Rs. 11 per factory maund in April, is now at the close of the year as high as Rs. 13-14.

Export trade of Calcutta with other countries.

397. The following statement shows the relative shares of the principal countries in the export trade (merchandise only) of Calcutta :—

	1914-15. Rs. lakhs.	1915-16. Rs. lakhs.	1914-15. Per cent. of total.	1915-16. Per cent. of total.
United Kingdom	2,362	3,176	33·2	36·1
Other British Possessions ...	1,039	1,121	14·6	12·7
United States	1,477	1,740	20·8	20·0
Russia	138	520	1·9	5·9
South America	340	479	4·8	5·4
Italy	175	437	2·5	5·0
France	145	331	2·0	3·7
Japan	147	181	2·0	2·0
Java	120	111	1·7	1·2
Total Exports (including other countries).	7,113	8,788	100	100

II.—FRONTIER TRADE.

[Report on the Frontier Trade of Bengal for 1915-16.]

Frontier Trade.

398. The total value of the trade with the adjacent States of Sikkim, Nepal, Tibet, and Bhutan in the year ending 31st March 1916 amounted to Rs. 105·94 lakhs, exclusive of the movements of treasure, the registration of which continues to be defective. This figure represents a decrease of Rs. 2·94 lakhs or 2·7 per cent.

Imports into Bengal.

399. Of the total value of the imports into Bengal (Rs. 70 lakhs), 38 per cent. came from Sikkim, 31 per cent. from Nepal, 26 per cent. from

Tibet, and the balance of about 5 per cent. from Bhutan. The principal articles of import into Bengal were :—from Sikkim, animals living (Rs. 5·36 lakhs), grain and pulse (Rs. 6·28 lakhs), *ghi* (Rs. 1·60 lakhs) and spices (Rs. 3·51 lakhs). There was practically no import of brass and copper during the year from Sikkim. From Nepal, animals living (Rs. 13·17 lakhs), fruits, vegetables and nuts—other kinds (Rs. 5·66 lakhs), and provisions (Rs. 1·74 lakhs). From Tibet, raw wool which constitutes the main staple of import (60,356 mds. valued at Rs. 13·19 lakhs), and musk and yaks' tails (valued jointly at Rs. 1 lakh). From Bhutan, animals living (valued at Rs. 1·76 lakhs).

Exports from Bengal.

400. Of the total exports (Rs. 35 lakhs), 46 per cent. went to Sikkim, 11 per cent. to Nepal, 37 per cent. to Tibet, and 6 per cent to Bhutan. The exports from Bengal to Sikkim consisted mainly of cotton manufactures (Rs. 2·58 lakhs), provisions (Rs. 3 lakhs), grain and pulse, chiefly rice (Rs. 1·98 lakhs) and metals and manufactures thereof (Rs. 1·80 lakhs); to Nepal, cotton manufactures (Rs. 2·20 lakhs) and grain and pulse (Rs. 33 thousands); and to Tibet cotton piece goods (Rs. 4·59 lakhs), metals (Rs. 1·45 lakhs) and woollen piece-goods (Rs. 96 thousands). The principal commodities exported to Bhutan were cotton piece-goods, valued at Rs. 44 thousands and spices at Rs. 53 thousands.

III.—COASTING TRADE.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1915-16.]

Coasting Trade.

401. The total value of the coasting trade, including Government stores and treasure, of Bengal amounted to Rs. 21·8 crores, a decrease of Rs. 1·4 crores or by 6 per cent. In Calcutta to which 78 per cent. of the trade belongs there was a decrease in imports of private merchandise from Rs. 11·86 crores to Rs. 10·21 crores or 14 per cent., and in exports from Rs. 7·46 crores to Rs. 6·25 crores or 16 per cent. Transactions with all provinces were on a smaller scale and the total trade was divided as follows :—Burma, Rs. 13·33 crores, a decrease of Rs. 43 lakhs in spite of exports being greater by Rs. 28 lakhs; Madras, Rs. 1·52 crores, a fall of Rs. 88 lakhs; Bombay, Rs. 85·84 lakhs, a loss of Rs. 103·83 lakhs. The coasting trade with Sind showed a decrease of Rs. 32 lakhs.

IV.—TRADE BY RAILWAY AND RIVER.

[Report on the Trade carried by Railway and River in Bengal during 1915-16.]

Railway and River-borne trade.

402. The main divisions of this trade and its estimated value are exhibited in the following table :—

Year.		Imports into Bengal including Calcutta from other provinces.	Exports from Bengal including Calcutta to other provinces.	Imports into Calcutta from the rest of Bengal.	Exports from Calcutta to the rest of Bengal.
1914-15 ...	Mds.	186,363,128	78,906,688	118,315,429	40,819,917
	Rs.	54,02,81,614	51,47,87,725	46,30,42,677	40,43,87,269
1915-16 ...	Mds.	176,582,294	85,991,600	111,415,737	41,431,587
	Rs.	62,16,34,312	53,19,51,447	50,98,79,250	40,73,28,390

The imports into Bengal including Calcutta were valued at Rs. 62 crores, of which 33 per cent. came from Bihar and Orissa, 25 per cent. from Assam, 20 per cent. from the United Provinces, 5 per cent. from the Central Provinces and Berar, 3 per cent. from the Punjab and the balance of 14 per cent. from other Provinces. Of the total exports (Rs. 53 crores), 34 per cent. went to Bihar and Orissa, 23 per cent. to the United Provinces, 16 per cent. to Assam, 9 per cent. to the Punjab, 4 per cent. to the Central Provinces and Berar and the remainder 14 per cent. to other Provinces.

Imports by Railway and River into Bengal.

403. The principal articles of import into Bengal including Calcutta were *from* Bihar and Orissa. Railway materials (Rs. 4·8 crores), coal and coke (Rs. 2·5 crores), jute (Rs. 1·9 crores), oilseeds (Rs. 1·6 crores), grain and pulse (Rs. 1·1 crore), hides and skins (Rs. 1·1 crore) and iron and steel (Rs. 97 lakhs) from the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. Grain and pulse (Rs. 3 crores), oilseeds (Rs. 2·3 crores), opium (Rs. 1·4 crores), hides and skins (Rs. 1·3 crores), *ghi* (Rs. 77 lakhs) and lac (Rs. 49 lakhs); from Assam, tea (Rs. 13 crores), grain and pulse (Rs. 65 lakhs) and jute (Rs. 63 lakhs); from the Central Provinces and Berar grain and pulse (Rs. 95 lakhs), cotton raw (Rs. 76 lakhs), metallic ores (Rs. 18 lakhs) and hides of cattle (Rs. 16 lakhs) and from the Punjab, grain and pulse, chiefly gram and wheat (Rs. 1 crore) and hides and skins (Rs. 17 lakhs).

Exports by Railway and River from Bengal.

404. The exports from Bengal including Calcutta to Bihar and Orissa comprised mainly cotton manufactures (Rs. 6·4) crores, rice (Rs. 2·3 crores) metals and manufactures of metals (Rs. 1·7 crores), sugar (Rs. 1·1 crores), oils, chiefly kerosene (Rs. 1 crore), salt (Rs. 87 lakhs), and spices (Rs. 48 lakhs); to the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, cotton manufactures (Rs. 3·8 crores), sugar (Rs. 1·9 crores), grain and pulse, chiefly rice (Rs. 1·7 crores), oils, chiefly kerosene (Rs. 77 lakhs) and gunny bags (Rs. 42 lakhs); to Assam, cotton manufactures (Rs. 1·8 crores), grain and pulse, chiefly rice (Rs. 1·5 crores), metals and manufactures of metals (Rs. 1·1 crores) and sugar (Rs. 58 lakhs); to the Punjab, cotton manufactures (Rs. 1·2 crores), gunny bags (Rs. 1 crore), sugar (Rs. 49 lakhs), metals and manufactures thereof (Rs. 42 lakhs) and rice (Rs. 24 lakhs), while exports to the Central Provinces and Berar consisted principally of sugar (Rs. 49 lakhs), gunny bags and cloth (Rs. 22 lakhs), cotton manufactures (Rs. 19 lakhs), kerosene oil (Rs. 19 lakhs) and rice (Rs. 7 lakhs).

PUBLIC WORKS.

Establishment.

Appointment of temporary Upper Subordinates by Superintending Engineers.

405. The number of temporary Upper Subordinates is sanctioned annually by Government according to the requirements of each Circle of Superintendence. Hitherto the appointment of individuals to fill the posts has rested with Government. This procedure involved unnecessary correspondence and delay as Superintending Engineers are personally acquainted with the requirements of such posts and are in the best position to select suitable persons to fill them. Superintending Engineers have therefore been empowered by this Government, under the power delegated by the Government of India, to make appointments and promotions of temporary Upper Subordinates against posts and within scales, sanctioned annually by this Government.

Formation of the Waterways Subdivision.

406. It was found after enquiry that the existing establishment of the Circular and Eastern Canals Division was unable, on account of the varied duties entrusted to it in other distant localities, to supervise effectively the conservancy and dredging operations in the waterways of the Sunderbans lying to the east of Khulna. Delays to the steamer services resulting in inconvenience to local traffic followed the sudden formation of shoals. To cope with these and other difficulties and to ensure proper and adequate supervision, a new subdivision called the Waterways Subdivision has been formed with headquarters at Khulna. Mr. G. Connell, an officer experienced in waterways and dredging operations, has been placed in charge of the subdivision with suitable subordinate staff. It is found that by frequent and easy communication with the local agents and the Pilot Superintendents of the Steamer Companies, information of the sudden formation of shoals is more quickly obtained and adequate measures can be taken for their removal, which results in improved traffic facilities.

Encouragement of the study of Oriental languages.

407. Engineer officers have not hitherto been permitted to earn any reward for passing proficiency and high proficiency examinations in vernacular languages as, under the conditions then existing, it was not considered necessary in the interests of public service that they should acquire such

proficiency. Circumstances have now changed and the Government of India have been pleased to amend the rules for the study of Oriental languages. Engineer officers of the Imperial Branch of the Public Works Department are now eligible for rewards on passing the proficiency and high proficiency examination in any vernacular language of the Province in which they are serving. They are also eligible for the Degree of Honour Examination under certain restrictions.

Selection of officers for the higher appointments in the Public Works Department.

408. The increasing difficulty of Indian administration renders it imperative that the greatest care should be exercised in the selection of officers to hold the important offices of Chief and Superintending Engineers. It has therefore been laid down by the Government of India that promotion to these ranks shall invariably be made by selection from the most competent officers and that seniority shall be considered only when other qualifications are practically equal. It has also been laid down that promotion to the Executive rank should be made from those Assistant Engineers in the 11th year of their service who are considered fully qualified to hold charge of Divisions.

Strength of the Department and allotment of superior posts.

409. The main purpose of the Re-organisation Scheme of 1912 was to place the officers of the Imperial and Provincial Services on one list for purposes of promotion to Divisional and Administrative appointments. It has been assumed for purposes of calculation that in this Presidency 23 superior posts are available for the Imperial and Provincial services. These posts are not in any sense of the term reserved for a particular number of officers of either service. The posts in the Engineer establishment are regarded as common to both services and promotions to them are made irrespectively of the fact that an officer belongs to the Imperial or Provincial Service and solely with reference to the qualification of the officers and to their positions on the combined list.

Accounts.

Expenditure.

410. The total outlay of the year on works amounted to Rs. 1,20,74,636, of which Rs. 63,48,393 were spent by the Public Works Department and Rs. 57,26,243 by local authorities. Of the expenditure of Rs. 63,48,393 incurred by the Public Works Department Rs. 7,64,536 were spent on Imperial Works, Rs. 54,15,146 on Provincial Works, and Rs. 1,68,711 on local and contribution works.

Buildings.

IMPERIAL WORKS.

Civil Works. Salt.

411. *Salt Golas at Chittagong.*—The construction of the salt-weighing machine sheds and raising the floors of the salt *golas* were practically completed. The erection of an electric installation has been held in abeyance.

412. The following works were completed during the year :—

Post and Telegraph offices.

The Telegraphists' quarters at Barisal ; the new Post Office at Chittagong ; the combined Post and Telegraph Office with Sub-Postmaster's quarters at Natore City ; additions and alterations to the combined Post and Telegraph Office at Rajshahi ; the combined Post and Telegraph Office at Alipur Duars ; additions and alterations to the Post Office at Jessore ; the Postmaster's quarters with additions and alterations to the Post Office at Krishnagar ; the new corrugated iron shed to be used as a mast fitting shop in the Telegraph Store Yard at Alipore.

The construction of a combined Post and Telegraph Office with quarters for the staff at Namkhana in the Sunderbans was commenced.

Surveyor-General's office.

413. The installation of one 5 H.-P. motor, one fan and seven soleroid starters, etc., at the Photo Litho Office, Calcutta, was completed.

Settlement buildings.

414. The construction of the Settlement buildings, including the Settlement Officer's residence at Comilla and of the residence for the Settlement Officer at Rajshahi was completed. Racks were provided in the Settlement Office at Rajshahi and a drawing shed for the Settlement Officer, the floors of the two sheds for the accommodation of the Settlement Press and Vernacular

Office at Boalia were tiled and a well constructed departmentally by the Settlement Officer, Rajshahi, acting as a Public Works Disburser. The Vernacular Office in connection with the Settlement buildings at Jessore was nearly completed.

Treasury and Currency building.

415. The rearrangement of the electric lights in the portion of the Treasury Buildings, Calcutta, occupied by the office of the Accountant-General, Bengal, was completed. The re-arrangement of fans was in progress. Fans were installed in the office of the Comptroller of Currency in the first floor of the Treasury Buildings.

Victoria Memorial Gardens.

416. The work of clearing and levelling the old Presidency Jail site in connection with the lay-out of the Victoria Memorial Gardens, Calcutta, was commenced.

PROVINCIAL WORKS.

Revenue and Judicial Courts.

417. The following works were completed :—

Additions and alterations to the Deputy Commissioner's cutchery at Darjeeling; the Subdivisional Court at Bongong and the old Collectorate at Midnapore; alterations in the police office attached to the Deputy Commissioner's cutchery at Darjeeling; improvements to the office of the Treasury Accountant in the Rajshahi Collectorate; diversion of the road in the Collector's court compound at Rangpur; extension of the Khasmahal Manager's office at Khanjanpur in the Bogra district; the double Munsifi at Magura; the witness-shed, wall, latrine and urinal in the compound of the Munsif's Court at Ghatal; the new record room for the District Judge's Court at Midnapore and the main Subdivisional Court at Tamluk.

Fire-protection appliances were supplied to the Criminal Courts at Pabna, Balurghat and Thakurgaon, to the Collectorate at Midnapore and to the Collector's Court at Dinajpur. Additions and alterations to the Collectorate at Barisal were partly completed. The following works were also in progress :—

The Khas Tahsil Office at Bhagwanpur; the record room for the Collectorate at Barisal and additions and alterations to the Subdivisional Court at Uluberia.

Subdivisional Officer's and Munsifs' residences.

418. The Munsif's residence at Uluberia was in progress.

A set of Munsifs' quarters at Sherpur, quarters for the 2nd and 3rd officers at Perojpur and the Subdivisional Officer at Rajbari, servants' quarters for the Subdivisional Officer at Ghatal and a stable for the Subdivisional Officer's residence at Contai were completed.

Circuit-house.

419. Fire-protection appliances were provided for the Circuit-houses at Dinajpur, Midnapore and Sirajganj.

Additions and alterations to the Circuit-house at Pabna and to the Circuit-house at Krishnagar were completed and the latrine attached to the Circuit-house at Darjeeling was remodelled.

Excise.

420. The following works were completed :—

The Excise warehouses at Bhairab and Chittagong; the improvements to the Sub-Deputy Collector's quarters (Ganja Supervisor's quarters) at Naogaon; reconstructing an incinerator in the Ganja *gola* at Naogaon; the liquor warehouse and Ganja *gola* at Bandel; and the extension of the combined ganja *gola* and liquor depôt at Uluberia.

The combined liquor warehouse and ganja *gola* at Contai was almost completed. The stone flooring and parapet remained to be done.

Residences for Local Government.

421. The Gurkha Guards' and the Gurkha officers' quarters and the lumber room at Government House, Darjeeling, were completed during the year.

Secretariat offices.

422. The new camp Secretariat for use during the annual visit of Government to Dacca was almost completed.

The work of remodelling the latrines attached to the Bengal Secretariat and Meadow Bank at Darjeeling was completed, and electric lights were installed at Thorn Cottage, Darjeeling. Wall racks were constructed in the Historical Record Room on the ground floor of Block No. IV, Writers' Buildings, Calcutta.

Residences for Government officials.

423. The construction of four residences at Dacca for the use of Secretaries and Heads of Departments during the annual move to Dacca was almost completed.

The following new residences were completed :—

The residences for the District Judge at Barisal, the Assistant Superintendent of Police at Brahmanbaria, the Superintendents of Police at Faridpur and Alipur, the Executive Engineers at Barisal and Rajshahi, the District Engineer and the Civil Surgeon at Rangamati and the Deputy Superintendent of Police at Balurghat.

The residence for the Superintendent of Police at Netrokona was in progress.

Jails.

424. The following works and buildings were completed :—

Additions and alterations to the Segregation ward and construction of a barrack for warders in the Mymensingh Jail; the hospital, undertrial ward, segregation ward and warders' and head warder's quarters in connection with the Comilla Jail; the Jail hospital at Rangpur; the extension of the Sub-Jails at Naogoan and Satkhira; the head warder's quarters in the compounds of the Sub-Jails at Alipore and Uluberia; the combined godown and workshed in the Sub-Jail at Katwa; the provision of fire-extinguishing appliances for the Central Jail at Midnapore; the installation of a Lancashire boiler with economiser for the Presidency Jail, Calcutta; the Forms Store in connection with the press in the Central Jail at Alipore; and the provision of an electric pump for the Jute Mill in the Presidency Jail at Alipore.

The installation of five motors in Bay No. 6 of the Central Jail Press at Alipore and additions and alterations to the Comilla Jail were also commenced.

Police.

425. New latrines and urinals were provided for the Armed Police-station at Paikpara and water closets with flushing arrangements in the Police hospital at Alipore. The additions and alterations in the 1st Sub-Inspector's quarters at Amta were taken in hand and completed and the additions and alterations in the 2nd Sub-Inspector's quarters at Amta were nearly completed. Certain improvements to the Police hospital at Berhampore were carried out. In connection with the new Police Training School at Dullandia, new barracks and Sub-Inspector's quarters were constructed, together with the latrines, cooksheds, bathing platforms, etc.

The following works were completed in the Northern Circle :—

Barracks at Bloomfield; buildings for investigating centres at Shibganj, Sherpur, Kahaloo, Saidpur and Harishchandrapur; quarters for the Sadar Inspector, the Chowrasta Sergeant, and the Town Inspectors at Darjeeling; family quarters for two Sub-Inspectors attached to the Kotwali Police buildings at Bogra; improvements to the quarters of the Inspectors of Police, Nos. I and II Divisions at Malda; a hospital with out-houses in the Reserve Police Lines at Jalpaiguri; improvements to the Police Hospital at Rangpur; a combined armoury and magazine for the Constables' Training School at Rajshahi; improvements to the Assistant Superintendent of Police's residence at Dinajpur; and the Police investigating centre at Birol.

The following works were in progress :—

Buildings for investigating centres at Nachol, Pirganj, Pirgacha, Gangachara, Hatibanda, Kaharul, Bochaganj, Haripur, Kushmundi and Gangarampur.

At the Central Police Training College at Sarda the following works were completed :—

The drainage scheme in connection with the College; two Indian Inspectors' quarters; seven Sub-Inspectors' quarters; 10 Head-Constables' quarters; cookshed for 315 constables; quarters for the 2nd compounder and 4th clerk; an additional stable and coach house; the salutry's quarters and the Sub-Assistant Surgeon's quarters.

The following works in connection with the same college were in progress :—

The hospital buildings and the segregation ward; the Military Assistant Surgeon's quarters; the dhobikhana and the conversion of the factories Nos. 3, 4 and 5 into barracks.

In the Eastern Circle the following police buildings were completed :—

The Police buildings at Lalbagh, Basail, Kendua, Haluaghat, Begumganj, Sandip, Chhagalnaya, Senbag, Parashuram, Mathberia, Jhalakati, Banaripara and Badartuni ; a hospital at Rangamati and an office for the Superintendent of Police at Faridpur.

The following works were in progress :—

A hospital at Mymensingh, and police buildings at Sreepur, Tangibari, Dhamrai, Basail, Kalmakanda, Melandaha, Kachua bazar, Muradnagar and Mahalseri.

For the new Reserve Police Lines at Chittagong, the hospital, two barracks for constables, residences for the European Inspector and Sergeant, residences for the Indian Sub-Inspectors and Head-Constables, the Police Office, the magazine and the armoury were completed.

Educational.

426. Land was acquired for the construction of a hostel for the Ripon College and for the Bethune College, Calcutta. The New University Institute, Calcutta, was completed and made over to the University authorities. The north-east block and servants' quarters for the extension of the Baker Madrassa Hostel were completed and materials for the north-west block partly collected. The installation of electric lights and fans in Hastings House and the adjoining buildings in connection with the establishment of a school for well-to-do Bengalees was completed. Additions and alterations to the Guru-Training School at Garodoro were carried out. The construction of two cooksheds for Hindus and Muhammadans and fencing the Guru-Training School compound at Amta was completed. The provision of additional accommodation in the Government school at Taki, the diversion of Ghose Babu's Road and the provision of an additional hostel for the students in connection with the above school, were completed. A cook-house was constructed in the hostel attached to the Daulatpur Hindu Academy for the Muhammadan pupils. Some additions and alterations were made to the Nawab Bahadur's Institution at Murshidabad. The Practising school buildings attached to the guru-training schools at Debogram and Kamalpur were completed. Certain improvements were made to the Hindu Boarding House attached to the zilla school at Jessore.

The following educational works in the Northern Circle were completed :—

Improvements to the sanitation of the Victoria Boys' School and the Dow Hill Girls' School at Kurseong; the clerks' quarters attached to the Victoria Boys' School, Kurseong ; the conversion of the existing latrines attached to the Darjeeling High School into water closet type ; laying a pipe line from the big masonry tank to the dhobis' tank in the Victoria Boys' School at Kurseong ; a hostel for the Rajbansis in connection with the zilla school at Rangpur ; improvements to the newly provincialized Bayley-Govindalal Technical School at Rangpur (except the supply of certain furniture), and the electric installation in the Physical Laboratory at Rajshahi College.

Those in progress at the end of the year were :—

The dining shed for the Hindu hostel attached to the zilla school at Rangpur ; the Guru-Training School at Malda ; the eight-seated latrine for the Fuller Muhammadan hostel at the Rajshahi Collegiate School and the conversion of the existing Guru-Training School at Pabna into a boarding house for the Hindu boys of the Pabna zilla school and the Guru-Training School buildings at Naogaon.

In the Eastern Circle the following were completed :—

Guru-training schools at Mymensingh, Kaliajuri, Aliganj and Feni ; a Hindu hostel attached to the Government College at Chittagong ; Dr. Khastagir's Girls' school at Chittagong ; a barrack with five rooms for teachers and a Sub-Inspector of Schools at Rangamati ; extension and alterations to the High English school at Jhalakati.

Additional land was acquired for the zilla and technical school at Barisal and the work of raising the sites was commenced. The construction of additional buildings and class room required for the zilla school at Mymensingh were in progress.

Owing to financial restrictions little progress was made with the Dacca University project. The dining hall and kitchen for the new college to be temporarily used in connection with the establishment of the Muhammadan College which were commenced during 1914-15 were practically completed and a portion of the Amlapara site was laid out as playing fields. The cycle shed for Dacca College was also constructed. A small amount of work was carried out in connection with the alterations to the old Secretariat to make it suitable for use as a college (new college) and also in improving three tanks in the University area. These two works and the Physical Laboratory commenced during the previous year were stopped early in the year owing to the financial restrictions on account of the war.

Hospitals and Dispensaries.

427. The main building for the School of Tropical Medicine and Biological Laboratory, Medical College, Calcutta, which was started in 1914-15, was completed. Land for the construction of the New Eye Hospital, Medical College, Calcutta, was acquired. The installation of electric lights in the several wards of the Campbell Hospital, Sealdah, was in progress. Two electric pumps were installed in the Chemical and Pathological block of the Medical College Hospital, Calcutta. Some improvements were made to the Civil Surgeon's Office at Midnapore. Certain alterations were carried out in the third class mortuary at Diamond Harbour. The new office for the Civil Surgeon at Jalpaiguri and the additions and improvements to the Civil Surgeon's residence at Bogra were completed. Fire-protection appliances were supplied to the dispensaries at Phansidewa, Pankhabari, Nuxalbari, Bugdogra and Khodiburi in the Darjeeling District. A dispensary with quarters for the Sub-Assistant Surgeon at Nagrakatta was nearly completed.

Registration.

428. Sub-Registry offices at Rupganj in the Dacca district, Begumganj in the Noakhali district and Palasbari in the Rangpur district were completed. The Sadar Registration Office at Noakhali was extended. The additions to the record room and alterations in the Registration Office at Comilla were nearly finished. The extension at the Sub-Registry Office at Bogra and the record room for the Registration Office at Bankura were completed.

Miscellaneous.

429. The Museum at Darjeeling was completed. The raising of the compound of the Bengal Veterinary College at Belgachia was in progress. Strengthening of the first floor of the Eastern Bengal Railway Office at Sealdah for the accommodation of a branch of the Bengal Secretariat Press was in progress.

P. W. D. Buildings.

430. The following buildings were completed :—

Residences for the Executive Engineer at Rajshahi and Barisal and for the District Engineer at Rangamati.

A residence for two European Subdivisional Officers at Alipore; Subdivisional offices at Siliguri and Nagrakatta; a Subdivisional Officer's quarters, office and go-down at Rangpur and Alipore; a Subdivisional Officer's quarters at Pabna; quarters for Sub-Overseers at Pabna, Dinajpur and Balurghat; additions and alterations to the office of the Executive Engineer, Duars Road Division at Jalpaiguri; an elephant shed with quarters for mahuts at Alipur Duars and Gairkatta.

Certain additions and alterations to the Sukhnihat rest-house for converting it into quarters for the Subdivisional Officer at Nagrakatta were in progress.

Contribution Works.

431. The following works were completed :—

A bath-room for the Pedong Dispensary. Remodelling the drain at the Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling. The infectious diseases' wards and Nurses' Home in the Mitford Hospital at Dacca.

Those in progress at the end of the year were :—

The new Chapel in the Presidency General Hospital, Bhowanipore, for the services of the Church of England. The new Hospital for Tropical Diseases, Medical College, Calcutta. The construction of a dining, dressing and bathing rooms for the Loreto Convent at Darjeeling.

Archæological Works.

432. Special repairs to the Gunamount Mosque at Gour were completed and special repairs to the Chikka Mosque at Gour were in progress.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Burdwan, Hooghly. 433. In November 1915 the Grand Trunk Road from the 8th to 102½ miles was transferred from the charge of the District Boards of Hooghly and Burdwan to the Public Works Department.

Burdwan. 434. The widening of the metalled portion of the Grand Trunk Road from 8 to 12 feet in the Asansol subdivision, which was commenced last year, was completed at a cost of Rs. 52,687.

Hooghly. 435. Concrete drains were constructed on the 8th and 15th mile of the Grand Trunk Road, and the provision of boundary pillars along the road was commenced.

Dinajpur. 436. The metalling of 4¼ miles of the Hilli-Balurghat Road from the 8th mile post to the upper end of the existing metalling in the 13th mile, and the construction of an inspection bungalow at Hilli were nearly completed.

Considerable progress was made in the construction of a steel pile bridge on the Jamuna river at Hilli.

Darjeeling. 437. The following works in the Darjeeling district, which were commenced last year, were completed :—

(*a*) Metalling of the Sukna-Adalpore Road.

(*b*) Providing Municipal pattern iron railing on the Rangit Road within the Darjeeling Municipality.

(*c*) Widening of the last three miles of the Tista Valley Road.

The widening of the Tista Valley Road from the junction of the old and new roads up to near the Gaille Jhora was taken in hand.

A suspension bridge was constructed over the Rangdhong Jhora on the Rangit Valley Road and the erection of a bridge of 58 feet span over the Adharia Jhora on the Tista Valley Road was in progress.

Jalpaiguri. 438. Considerable progress was made in the construction of new roads and the metalling of existing roads in the Jalpaiguri Duars as briefly detailed below :—

(1) Construction of a metalled road from Dalgaon to Lankapara :—

Dalgaon to Dalmore Tea Estate, 1st section, miles 1 to 4. Collection of soling and metal was nearly completed. Laying of the soling was started.

Dalmore Tea Estate to Lankapara, 2nd Section, miles 5 to 11. About half the soling and metal was collected for these miles, and the earth work was in progress in various miles.

(2) Metalling of the Gairkatta-Binaguri Road.—This was completed during the year.

(3) Metalling of the Banarhat-Chamurchi Road.—All work on this road was nearly completed during the year.

(4) Metalling of the Gairkatta-Dhupguri Road.—Work was completed in 6 miles out of 9. Consolidation was in progress in the other 3 miles.

(5) Metalling of the Chalsa-Latiguri Road.—Consolidation of metal and filling of flanks were fully completed in miles 1 and 2 and 11 to 14. In other miles satisfactory progress was made in consolidation and collection of metal.

(6) Metalling of the Tondu Forest Road.—The work was completed on the whole road except on the approaches of the Jaldhaka and Murti bridges.

(7) Metalling of the Nagrakatta-Chengmari Road, 1st section.—This section was completed during the year except the approaches to the bridges over the Sukhani Jhora and the Ghatia river.

(8) Construction of a new metalled road from Ghatia bridge to Chengmari (Nagrakatta-Chengmari Road, 2nd section) miles 1 to 6. —The earthwork in embaukment and collection of soling and metal was almost completed, and consolidation nearly finished in miles 1 to 3.

(9) Metalling of the Alipore-Kumargram Road.—First 3 miles was nearly completed.

(10) Metalling of the Alipore-Kumargram Road, 2nd section (4th to 12th mile).—Earthwork fully completed; collection of metal made good progress.

(11) Metalling of Jainti-Dhowla Road.—Work completed in the first 7 miles and was in progress on the other 5.

(12) Construction of a new metalled road from Banarhat to Binaguri, 4 miles.—The construction of this road was commenced and considerable progress made during the year.

(13) Improving and metalling of the Gairkatta-Dalgaon Road, miles 1 to 8.—The work on this road was started and about 40 per cent. of collection of metal and soling was completed.

In addition to the above the following major bridges were under construction :—

(1) Bridge over the Ghatia river on the Nagrakatta-Chengmari Road. This bridge which was started in 1914 was completed except the tar macadam road surface.

(2) Bridge over the Jainti river on the Jainti-Dhowla Road.—The piers and abutments were completed and all the steel work erected and almost all the rivetting done.

Stone saussages along the right guide bank were laid in position and those on the left bank about half finished.

(3) Bridge over the Dudua river on the Gairkatta-Dhupguri Road.—This bridge which was started last year was completed during the year.

(4) Bridge over the Gadadhar river in the 5th mile of the Alipore-Kumargram Road.—This fourth 40-feet span bridge was commenced last year. The bridge was completed except for the railing and floor.

(5) Bridge of 5 spans (the central one being 80′ 5″) over the Kuji-Daina river on the Nagrakatta-Chengmari Road, 2nd section.—The construction of this bridge was commenced and three piers out of four were completed and the fourth was commenced. One abutment was erected and rivetting of the steel superstructure was in progress at the site.

(6) Bridge over the Jaldhaka river on the Tondu Forest Road.—This consists of 6 spans (the two side spans being 66′ 8″ each and the four central 91′ 8″ each). Three piers out of five were built up to the ground level, and the foundations of the remaining two were commenced. Work was started on the very extensive training works that have proved necessary and these were nearly completed.

(7) Bridge of 10 spans of 40-feet each over the Murti river on the Tondu Forest Road.—Channels for diverting the stream and bunds for protecting banks were commenced. The steel work was purchased and has already arrived at the site, but work on the bridge itself has not yet been put in hand.

Besides the above major bridges, the construction of a 40-feet bridge in the 2nd mile of the Banarhat-Chamurchi Road was commenced and finished during the year.

The work of constructing a bridge of two spans of 40-feet over the Sukhani Jhora on the 1st mile of the Nagrakatta-Chengmari Road was started and both abutments raised to ground level; all materials were collected at site.

In connection with these roads, the following six inspection bungalows were under construction :—

(1) Gairkatta.
(2) Dalgaon.
(3) Lankapara.
(4) Samuktola.
(5) Hathipotha.
(6) Latiguri.

Chittagong Hill Tracts.

439. The following works were in progress :—

The construction of a road from Mohulsory to Ramgarh, and the opening out of two bridle roads from Nainyar Char to Mainimukh and from Khagraseny to Diginalla to connect main valley with Chengri Valley.

Chittagong.

440. Wooden bridges in miles 25 and 26 on the Chittagong Trunk Road were replaced by masonry culverts, and the work of replacing the bridge at the 40th mile, which was washed away in the monsoon of 1915, was also in progress.

ARBORICULTURE.

Arboriculture.

441. Arboricultural operations along Provincial roads in charge of the Public Works Department were carried out as far as funds permitted.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

Calcutta Maidan.

442. Sanction was accorded by the Government of India to the erection by the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation of an electric sub-station on a site at the north end of Babu Bathing Ghât within the boundaries of the Calcutta Maidan to enable them to supply energy to jetty No. 9, belonging to the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta.

Kerb and channel drains were laid along the east side of the Strand Road from Peel's Statue to Napier Road junction on the Calcutta Maidan.

Hooghly.

443. The revetment of the left bank of the Darkeshwar river at Arambagh, which was commenced last year, was completed.

Jalpaiguri.

444. A foot bridge over the Karla river, the construction of which was started last year, was completed.

Noakhali.

445. The erosion of the coast at Noakhali by the river Megna continued. The changes in the course of the river and in the *chars* were watched and surveyed. The results of observation show that during the year the total erosion of the bank was about four-fifths of what it was in 1914-15 and half of that in 1913-14.

CONTRIBUTION WORKS.

Darjeeling.

446. The following works were completed during the year :—

(1) Construction of a halting shed at Tista Bridge.
(2) Re-erection of the Singbally Suspension Bridge.

The construction of a new Darjeeling Improvement Fund bungalow at Senchal was in progress.

Railways.

Administration.

447. There are no railways entirely under the control of the Government of Bengal. The Government of India in the Railway Department (Railway Board) control the more important lines. The following private lines of Railways are subject to a certain measure of control by the Government of Bengal :—

	Gauge. Ft.	In.	Miles.
(1) The Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway	2	0	51·00
(2) The Bengal Provincial Railway (Tarkessur-Magra) ...	2	6	33·27
(3) The Howrah-Amta Light Railway	2	0	43·37
(4) The Howrah-Sheakhala Light Railway	2	0	19·75
(5) The Barasat-Basirhat Light Railway	2	6	52·24
(6) The Jessore-Jhenidah Railway	2	6	36·80
Total			236·93

Mileage of Railway Lines opened for traffic.

448. During the year 1915-16, 97·25 miles of new railway lines were opened for traffic. This additional mileage was made up as follows :—

	Miles.
(Standard 5' 6" gauge.)	
Eastern Bengal Railway—	
Sara-Serajganj Railway (Ishurdi-Bhanguraghat section) ...	22¼
(2' 6" gauge.)	
East Indian Railway—	
Burdwan-Katwa Railway	32¼
(2' 0" gauge.)	
Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway Extensions—	
Teesta Valley extensions (Siliguri-Reang Section)	24¼
Reang to Kalimpong Road	5¼
Kissenganj extension (Islampur-Naxalbari section from Adhikari to Naxalbari)	12¼
Total ...	97·25

With these additions the total mileage open on 31st March 1916 was as follows :—

	Miles.
Standard 5' 6" gauge	1,384·16
2' 6" „	190·05
2' 0" „	183·40
	1,757·61
Metre gauge (3' 3⅜")	1,180·81
Total ...	2,938·42

Lines under construction.

449. The following lines were under construction during the year :—

(1) Mymensingh-Bhairab Bazar Railway.
(2) Sara-Serajganj Railway (Bhanguraghat-Serajganj extension).
(3) Bankura-Damodar River Railway.
(4) Ahmedpur-Katwa Railway.
(5) Kalighat-Falta Railway.
(6) Burdwan-Howrah Chord Railway.
(7) Burdwan-Katwa Railway.
(8) Chalsa-Matelli Extension of the Bengal Duars Railway.

Surveys sanctioned.

450. During the year under review the following surveys were sanctioned :—

By the Agency of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway—

Contai Road-Contai Railway Survey—

A detailed survey was sanctioned for a line of railway on the 5' 6" gauge from Contai Road Station to Contai, a distance of about 35 miles.

By the Agency of the Eastern Bengal Railway—

Krishnagar-Jelingee Railway Survey—

A survey was sanctioned for a line of railway on the 5' 6" gauge from Krishnagar to Jelingee, a distance of about 56 miles.

Serajganj-Bogra Railway Survey—

A detailed survey was sanctioned for a line of railway from Serajganj to Bogra, a distance of about 36 miles.

Golakganj-Kumargram-Alipur Duars Railway Survey—

A reconnaissance survey was sanctioned for a line of railway on the metre and 2' 0" gauges alternatively from Golakganj to Kumargram, a distance of about 38 miles, and from Alipur Duars to Kumargram, distance of about 21 miles.

Ishardi-Sadhuganj Railway Survey—

A detailed survey was sanctioned for a line of railway on the broad and 2' 6" gauges alternatively from Ishardi on the Eastern Bengal Railway to Sadhuganj *viâ* Pabna, a distance of about 46 miles.

Barsoi-Harischandrapur Railway Reconnaissance Survey—

A reconnaissance survey was sanctioned for a line of railway on the metre gauge from Barsoi to Harischandrapur, a distance of about 16 miles.

Badaryanj-Mahimaganj Railway Survey—

A reconnaissance survey was sanctioned for a line of railway on the metre gauge from Badarganj to Mahimaganj, a distance of about 48 miles.

Lines sanctioned for construction.

451. The construction of the following railway lines was sanctioned during the year :—

(1) Khulna-Bagerhat Railway—

The construction of this line was sanctioned to be constructed by the Eastern Bengal Railway on behalf of the Khulna-Bagerhat Railway Company, Limited, on the 2' 6" gauge from Khulna to Bagerhat, a distance of about 20·53 miles.

(2) Kamarkundu to Bally section of the Burdwan-Howrah Chord Railway, a distance of 15·22 miles—

The construction of this section by the East Indian Railway on the broad gauge was sanctioned.

(3) The Kalighat-Falta Railway—

This line was sanctioned for construction by Messrs. McLeod & Co., Calcutta, on the 2' 6" gauge from Kalighat, near Calcutta to Falta, a distance of about 25·91 miles.

(4) Mymensingh-Bhairab Bazar Railway—

The construction of this line by the Assam-Bengal Railway on behalf of the Mymensingh-Bhairab Bazar Railway Company, on the metre gauge from Mymensingh to Bhairab Bazar with branches from Gauripur to Bagmara *viâ* Shamganj and from Shamganj to Netrokona, a total distance of about 113 miles, was sanctioned.

Canals—Irrigation and Navigation.

[Administration Report of Irrigation Works for the year 1915-16. Statistics of British India, Part III.—Commercial Service.]

Capital and Revenue Accounts.

452. The transactions of the Irrigation Department, Bengal Presidency, for the year 1915-16 are exhibited in the following statement so far as they relate to works of Irrigation and Navigation :—

CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

HEADS.	Amount of construction estimate.	Expenditure during 1915-16.	Expenditure to end of 1915-16.	Balance for expenditure from 1st April 1916.
Major Irrigation Works.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Direct charges ...	1,08,59,937	...	1,08,59,937	...
Indirect charges ...	2,48,678	...	2,48,678	...
Total ...	1,11,08,615	...	1,11,08,615	...
Minor Works and Navigation.				
Direct charges ...	1,23,93,717	3,20,770	1,26,51,229	(-)2,57,512
Indirect charges ...	1,34,226	8,409	1,90,792	(-) 56,566
Total ...	1,25,27,943	3,29,179	1,28,42,021	(-)3,14,078

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

HEADS.	Receipts.	WORKING EXPENSES.			Net revenue.
		Direct.	Indirect.	Total.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Major Irrigation Works.	2,77,798	1,95,740	10,859	2,06,599	71,199
Minor Works and Navigation.					
Works for which Capital and Revenue Accounts are kept.	5,10,859	7,29,342	17,796	7,47,138	(-)2,36,279
Works for which only Revenue Accounts are kept.	31,447	1,20,952	10,448	1,31,400	(-) 99,953
Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue Accounts are kept. (a)	36,985	72,658	...	72,658	(-) 35,673

(a) For Eden Canal only.

Irrigation.

453. The following statement shows the areas irrigated during the year as compared with the average of the triennial period ending March 1915 :—

	MIDNAPORE CANAL (MAJOR WORKS).			EDEN CANAL (MINOR WORKS).		
	Kharif, inclusive of hot weather.	*Rabi*.	Total.	*Kharif*, inclusive of hot weather.	*Rabi*.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Average of the triennium ending March 1915.	78,680	1,156	79,836	23,908	203	24,111
For 1915-16	83,449	...	83,449	24,848	448	25,296

Lengths of Canals.

454. The following statement shows the lengths of canals and distributaries which were in operation during the year 1915-16 :—

	Midnapore Canal.	Eden Canal.
	Miles.	Miles.
Main canals, irrigation	53·00	27¼
Branch canals, ditto	16·75	
Distributaries of above	254·54	17½
Navigable channels	69·75	...

Navigation.

455. The following statement shows the traffic on the navigable canals during the year 1915-16 as compared with the average of the triennium ending March 1915 :—

	MIDNAPORE CANAL.		HIJILI TIDAL CANAL.		CALCUTTA AND EASTERN CANALS.		MADARIPUR BHIL ROUTE.		ORISSA COAST CANAL.		NADIA RIVERS.	
	Average of the triennium ending March 1915.	For the year 1915-16.	Average of the triennium ending March 1915.	For the year 1915-16.	Average of the triennium ending March 1915.	For the year 1915-16.	Average of the triennium ending March 1915.	For the year 1915-16.	Average of the triennium ending March 1915.	For the year 1915-16.	Average of the triennium ending March 1915.	For the year 1915-16.
Length of canal open. ... Miles	69½	69½	29	(a)29	1.115	1.184	21	*26	45	(b)*54	496	488½
Receipts ... Rs.	39,385	39,793	39,844	47,161	2,51,782	3,09,169	83,743	1,88,107	11,332	9,470	22,057	15,151
Tonnage of boats by canal measurement ... Tons	402,061	350,643	161,250	182,210	948,013	819,090	278,547	631,342	26,557	76,743	190,623	74,363
Estimated weight of cargo ... ,,	80,407	73,719	58,435	68,067	606,852	546,551	217,750	490,650	28,768	26,820	87,561	56,046
Estimated value of goods ... Rs.	86,03,785	89,21,473	48,08,510	57,60,297	6,57,58,399	6,67,08,968	2,14,70,886	9,07,88,238	20,56,679	19,89,294	1,33,88,862	72,07,514
Estimated value of rafts ... ,,	11,868	2,947	7,621	8,170	54,147	42,575	7,887	5,801	14,963	28,865	21,559	15,122

* Including approaches.

(a) Exclusive of the Terapakia Pass Khal, Falbooi Khal, and the Khal leading to the Gewankhali lock entrance, of which the aggregate length is 2½ miles.
(b) Inclusive of the Hatiaghye drain and river crossings.

N

Discharge of Rivers.

456. In accordance with the instructions of the Government of India, the discharges of certain rivers as shown below were observed during the year under review.

SOUTH-WESTERN CIRCLE.

DAMODAR RIVER.

DATE.	DISCHARGES IN CUSECS AT—		
	Salalpur.	Jujuti.	Jamalpur.
20th May 1915	1,115	.....	.....
27th ,, ,, ...	.....	.....	336
26th June ,, ...	.....	.....	2,727
29th August ,, ...	.....	.....	7,394
30th September ,, ...	.....	.....	12,911
5th October ,, ...	.....	.....	3,061
7th ,, ,, ...	.....	3,025	.....
8th ,, ,, ...	.....	.....	3,729
13th ,, ,, ...	.....	4,715	.....
15th ,, ,, ...	3,002	.....	.....
22nd ,, ,, ...	.....	2,720	2,420
23rd ,, ,, ...	2,033	...	.....
28th ,, ,, ...	.....	.....	2,294
31st ,, ,, ...	1,480	936	.....
15th November ,, ...	.....	719	.....
16th ,, ,, ...	555	.....	653
24th ,, ,, ...	.....	2,683	.....
29th ,, ,, ...	.....	.....	1,419
30th ,, ,, ...	705	1,016	.....
15th December ,, ...	.....	493	.....
16th ,, ,, ...	452	.....	.....
17th ,, ,, ...	.....	.....	292
31st ,, ,, ...	344	491	283
16th January 1916	.....	237	240
17th ,, ,, ...	322	.....	.....
31st ,, ,, ...	.....	135	196
1st February ,, ...	271	.....	.....
16th ,, ,, ...	.....	.....	67
22nd ,, ,, ...	.....	146	.....
29th ,, ,, ...	.....	.....	71
17th March ,, ...	.....	.....	16*
29th ,, ,, ...	.....	.....	12*

* No accurate figures as discharges were taken when the river was headed up at Jujuti.

AJAI RIVER.

Date.	Locality.	Discharge (taken by means of velocity rods) cusecs.
21st May 1915 ...	Satkahonia	4,318
17th June ,, ...	Ditto	1,244
27th ,, ...	Ditto	2,020
17th July ,, ...	Ditto	1,460
15th August ,, ...	Ditto	1,630
30th ,, ,, ...	Ditto	1,100
15th September ,, ...	Ditto	1,999
29th ,, ,, ...	Ditto	1,574
1st October ,, ...	Ditto	1,141
14th ,, ,, ...	Ditto	904
21st ,, ,, ...	Ditto	801
29th ,, ,, ...	Ditto	691
15th November ,, ...	Ditto	685
1st December ,, ...	Ditto	620
15th ,, ,, ...	Ditto	246
29th ,, ,, ...	Ditto	139

CENTRAL CIRCLE.

NAME OF RIVER.	SEPTEMBER 1915.				OCTOBER 1915.			
	MAXIMUM DISCHARGE.		MINIMUM DISCHARGE.		MAXIMUM DISCHARGE.		MINIMUM DISCHARGE.	
	Date.	Quantity in cusecs.	Date	Quantity in cusecs.	Date.	Quantity in cusecs.	Date.	Quantity in cusecs.
District Birbhum—								
Mora	24th	21,457	11th	546	9th	1,585	30th	193
Bansloe	20th	16,745	11th	529	22nd	6,058	31st	194
Brahmini	20th	9,691	12th	280	23rd	433	31st	177

457. The classification of works dealt with in this review is as follows :— Classification of Irrigation and Navigation works.

Account—"*49—Major Works.*"—In these are included the Midnapore and Hijili Tidal Canals. The latter is used for navigation only, while the former provides for both irrigation and navigation. The original Capital Accounts of these canals have been closed and *all* present capital outlay is charged against head "43—Minor Works and Navigation." The Revenue Account is shown under "42—Major Works—Working Expenses."

Account—"*43—Minor Works and Navigation.*"—(*i*) The works for which Capital and Revenue Accounts are kept include the Calcutta and Eastern Canals and the Madaripore Bhil route. These are intended for navigation. Under this head is also included the Utterbhag Lock which has been constructed in connection with the Magra Hât drainage scheme. The work has been completed. (*ii*) The works for which only Revenue Accounts are kept are the Nadia Rivers, the Gaighatta and Buxi Khal and a part of the Orissa Coast Canal. These are all used for navigation only. Under (*ii*) is also included the Magra Hât drainage scheme in the 24-Parganas district, which has been carried out under the provisions of the Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act VIII of 1895. (*iii*) The works for which neither Capital nor Revenue Accounts are kept include (*a*) the Eden Canal which is used partly for irrigation and partly to afford a supply of water for drinking and sanitation, and (*b*) training works carried on the rivers Ganges, Bhagirathi Dhaleswari and Buriganga.

The transactions of the year for each of the above works are briefly stated in the following summary which is given for convenience by Circles of Superintendence.

SOUTH-WESTERN CIRCLE.

MAJOR IRRIGATION WORKS.

Midnapore Canal.

458. There was no outlay chargeable to the Capital Account of the canal during the year. The total capital outlay (direct charges) to end of the year was Rs. 83,09,132. Midnapore Canal. Capital outlay.

459. There were no serious floods in the Cossye river during the year under review. Floods.

460. The rainfall at Midnapore during the year was 55·41 inches against 59·21 inches of the previous year. It was moderate, seasonable and uniformly distributed. Rainfall.

461. The area irrigated from the canal was 83,649 acres against 78,310 acres during the year 1914-15. The increase was chiefly due to about 3,000 acres of unauthorised irrigation being assessed under section 79 of the Irrigation Act which subsequently came under long lease. Irrigation.

The cash realization on account of water rates during the year was Rs. 1,71,202 against a total demand of Rs. 1,73,232. The amount remitted or written off during the year was Rs. 682 as compared with Rs. 370 in the preceding year. The balance unrealized at the end of the year was Rs. 1,348. The collection on this canal continues in a satisfactory state. The rate for

long term leases was raised from Re. 1-8 to Rs. 2 per acre with effect from 1st April 1905. The question of further enhancing the rate has been held in abeyance till 1916-17.

Navigation.

462. The navigation receipts during the year were practically the same as in the previous year being Rs. 37,763 as against Rs. 36,871, during the year 1915-16.

Financial results.

463. The gross revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the Midnapore Canal amounted to Rs. 2,28,810 and Rs. 1,45,737, respectively, as against Rs. 2,23,058 and Rs. 1,37,775 in the preceding year.

Hijili Tidal Canal.

Hijili Tidal Canal.

464. There was no outlay chargeable to the Capital Account of the canal during the year. The total Capital outlay (direct charges) to the end of the year amounted to Rs. 25,50,805. The gross revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the canal amounted to Rs. 48,988 and Rs. 60,862, respectively, as against Rs. 30,311 and Rs. 1,28,816 in 1914-15. The result was a net loss of Rs. 11,874 against a loss of Rs. 98,505 in the preceding year. The increase in "Gross receipts" was due to better outturn of crops for the first time after the devastating floods of 1913 in the area served by this canal. The decrease in working expenses was due to the fact that no extensive silt clearance was necessary during the year.

MINOR WORKS AND NAVIGATION.

Calcutta and Eastern Canals.

(a) Calcutta Eastern Canals Capital account.

465. A sum of Rs. 48,127 debitable to the Capital Account (direct charges) was expended during the year inclusive of a credit of Rs. 69,265 on account of the hire of the dredgers *Foyers* and *Alexandra*. The principal item of expenditure of the year was (*a*) the improvement of the Gabkhan Bharani khal from Chowkighatta to Jhalakati, and (*b*) extension of suction head of the dredger *Foyers* and fixing the same. A sum of Rs. 7,942 was also spent during the year in completing the five pontoons for carrying the floating discharge pipe line of the dredger. Some outlay was incurred in connection with the work of demarcation of the Government land along Tolly's Nala from Hastings Bridge to Samukpota. The total Capital outlay (direct charges) to the end of the year stands at Rs. 88,04,807.

(b) Navigation receipts.

466. The receipts from navigation tolls amounted to Rs. 3,03,189 as compared with Rs. 3,00,611 in the preceding year. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) amounted to Rs. 3,23,155 and Rs. 6,22,715, respectively, as against Rs. 3,21,068 and Rs. 4,44,120 in 1914-15, the result being a deficit of Rs. 2,99,560 against a similar deficit of Rs. 1,23,052 in the preceding year. The increase in working expenses is due chiefly to dredging the Angeria Creek on which Rs. 2,05,929 were expended during the year.

Madaripore Bhil Route.

Madaripur Bhil Route.

467. The expenditure (direct charges) debitable to the Capital Account of the project was Rs. 2,27,227 for works only. This was incurred chiefly on (1) dredging the Lower Kumar River, and (2) constructing an embankment with sluices along the south bank of the canal. The total Capital outlay (direct charges) to end of 1915-16 amounted to Rs. 36,39,325 against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 34,32,491. A second revised estimate for the project providing for the above works and other works necessary in order that the channel may remain open throughout, the year has been prepared and is now under consideration. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) during the year were, respectively, Rs. 1,87,704 and Rs. 1,24,410 as against Rs. 67,381 and Rs. 2,24,698 in the year 1914-15. The increase in receipts is due t the western entrance of the canal at Manikdah being open throughout the principal traffic season as a result of the construction of a

bund along the south bank of the canal; this also accounts for the decrease in working expenses.

Orissa Coast Canal.

Orissa Coast Canal.

468. This canal which is intended for navigation only lies partly (54½ miles) in this Presidency and partly in the province of Bihar and Orissa. The review of this canal for the previous year has been dealt with by the latter Government on the figures supplied by this Government. It has since been decided that each Government will deal with its own length. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) for the year were Rs. 11,106 and Rs. 16,533, respectively, as against Rs. 9,700 and Rs. 13,286 in the previous year.

Ghaighatta and Buxi Khal.

Ghaighatta and Buxi Khal.

469. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) for the year were Rs. 4,025 and Rs. 384, respectively, as against Rs. 5,032 and Rs 311 in the previous year. The Khal has been leased out for three years from 1913-14 at Rs. 4,025 per annum.

Eden Canal.

Eden Canal.

470. The receipts and working expenses amounted to Rs. 36,985 and Rs. 72,658, respectively, as against Rs. 19,739 and Rs. 68,215 in the year 1914-15. The increase in gross receipts is due chiefly to the fact that during the year 1914-15 remission to the extent of Rs. 10,000, was necessary on account of failure of crops due partly to short supply of water in the Damodar river, and partly to the non-renewal of lapsed leases on account of the uncertainty of the supply of water under the then conditions at the head sluice. To remedy this difficulty a new supply channel with a sluice and stop dam is under construction at Jhanpur. It is expected that the works will be completed by the end of March 1917, and will result in a considerable increase in the supply of water for irrigation and for domestic purposes. The area irrigated from the canal during the year was 3,606 acres more than the area irrigated in the preceding year. This also accounts for an increase in receipts.

Utterbhag Lock.

Utterbhag Lock.

471. During the year a sum of Rs. 4,122 (direct charges) was spent on the Lock, which has been constructed on the Peali river at Uttarbhag to give access to the channels of the Magra Hât Drainage Scheme to boats coming from the Sundarbans and eastern rivers. As the Lock is an integral part of the drainage scheme in so far as navigation is concerned it has been proposed to amalgamate the accounts.

Improvement of the Bidyadhari River.

Bidyadhari River.

472. As the Bidyadhari river is fast deteriorating it has been decided that an attempt be made to improve it by creating a spill area for the river. An estimate amounting to Rs. 2,64,275 has been sanctioned for the purpose. The land required was partly acquired during the year at a cost of Rs. 1,50,484 and it is expected that the opening of the area for spill will be taken up early in 1917.

Investigations.

473. An expenditure of Rs. 9,641 (direct charges) was incurred during the year on the surveys carried out during the preceding year in connection with a new alignment for the Grand Trunk Canal (as an alternative to Mr. Lees' alignment surveyed in 1912-13) with docks at Manikola and an outlet to the Hooghly along the north of Calcutta. The outlay on the surveys (direct charges) to end of the year 1915-16 amounted to Rs. 46,661.

Surveys were also continued during the year for mitigating the effects of the Damodar floods.

Floods.

474. There were no unusually high floods in the Damodar River during the year.

CENTRAL CIRCLE.

MINOR WORKS AND NAVIGATION.

Nadia Rivers.

Nadia Rivers.

475. The approximate length of the channels comprised in the Nadia Rivers remained the same as last year. These are as detailed below :—

	Miles.
Farracca channel from the Ganges to Biswanathpur ...	25
Bhaghirathi river from Bhaghirathi entrance at Biswanathpur to Nadia	132
Bhairab-Jalangi from entrance to Nadia	163½
Mathabhanga from entrance to junction with the Hooghly ...	136
Hooghly from Nadia to Mathabhanga junction	32
	488½

In addition to the above a length of 10 miles of the river Gorai from its take-off down to Kushtia and the River Ganges, from Rajmahal to Goalundo, a distance of 152 miles are comprised within the charge of the Nadia Rivers Division but are not included under the head Nadia Rivers. The Gorai has not been declared under the Canals Act.

No capital account is kept.

The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 16,316 and Rs. 1,14,483, respectively, as against Rs. 16,371 and Rs. 1,05,515 in the preceding year.

A brief description of the rivers comprised in the Nadia Rivers System is given below.

Bhagirathi river.

476. This river is 157 miles in length from the Faracca take off down to Nadia, the length below Nadia down to the junction with the river Mathabhanga being known as the Hooghly. The first 25 miles is a *Sota* of the Ganges called the Faracca channel, the next 68 miles from below Bishwanathpur to Dadpur is known as the Upper Bhagirathi, and the remaining 64 miles down to Nadia is the Lower Bhagirathi. The Lower Bhagirathi is again divided into (*a*) the Upper Reach from Dadpur to Katwa, and (*b*) the Lower Reach from Katwa to Nadia. The Upper Bhagirathi was open for ordinary through boat traffic up to December 1915, while below Lalbagh it was open almost throughout the year. No steamer service was maintained during the year, though a steam ferry service plied between Gorabazar and Azimganj. As regards the Lower Bhagirathi there was no cessation of boat traffic between Katwa and Nadia. The steamer service from Calcutta to Katwa and Jiagunj commenced at the end of May 1915 and was suspended in the middle of November 1915.

Twenty-three shoals with an aggregate length of 62,800 feet, were trained as against 26 and 80,700 feet, respectively, in the previous year.

The minimum depth of water in the river at the end of March was :—

REACH OF RIVER.	LEAST DEPTH OF WATER.			Width of channel.
	1914.	1915.	1916.	
	Ft. In.	Ft. In.	Ft. In.	
Entrance from Ganges ...	0 8	1 0	dry.	More than 25 feet.
Thence to Garia ...	1 0	0 9	0 5	
Garia to Jangipur ...	0 6	0 6	0 5	
Jangipur to Berhampore ...	1 0	0 9	1 0	
Berhampore to Katwa ...	1 0	0 3	0 6	
Katwa to Nadia ...	1 9	2 0	2 0	

Bhairab Jalangi River.

477. This river is divided into three different lengths, viz :—

(*a*) The Bhairab, from the take-off down to Mukhtearpur.
(*b*) The Upper Jalangi, from Mukhtearpur to Gopinathpur.
(*c*) The Lower Jalangi, from Gopinathpur to Nadia.

No steamers plied in this river during the year, but it was open for ordinary boat traffic up to November 1915 and for small boat traffic throughout the year in the lower reaches. There were altogether 12 shoals as against 40 last year.

Mathabhanga River.

478. The Mathabhanga River takes off from the Ganges about 5 miles above the village of Jalangi and joins the Hooghly below Chakda. From the take-off to Munshiganj is known as the Upper Mathabhanga and below that to the Hooghly junction as the Lower Mathabhanga river. The river was navigable for boat traffic from June to the end of November 1915. Four shoals with an aggregate length of 2,300 feet were trained against 4 and 5,000 feet, respectively, during the previous year. No training works are necessary for the part of the Lower Mathabhanga which is tidal.

Ganges river between Rajmahal and Goalundo.

479. The conservancy of the Ganges river between Digha Ghât and Rajmahal was taken over by the Government of Bihar and Orissa, while this Government undertook the conservancy of the length lying within the Bengal Presidency. The training works were carried out through the agency of the India General Navigation and Railway Company, Limited. Six shoals were trained against 4 in the previous year. The cost of the season's operations to this Government was Rs. 10,239, while in the previous year Rs. 33,347 was spent by the two Governments on the length from Digha Ghât to Goalundo.

The entrance to the Bhagirathi River from the Ganges.

480. For some years past dredging operations have been conducted at the take-off of the Bhagirathi river from the Farucca by-channel of the Ganges. This by-channel commences at Farucca and rejoins the Ganges about four miles below the off-take of the Bhagirathi river. During the year the dredger "Nemotha" was chartered from the India General Navigation and Railway Co., Ltd. She worked for 76 days and dredged a total length of 17,439 feet. Bandalling and scraping were also carried out. The operations were not particularly successful owing to adverse circumstances. The total expenditure incurred was Rs. 15,157 against Rs. 16,925 in the previous season.

Discharge Observations.

481. During the year under review discharge observations were made of the rivers Bhagirathi, Bhairab Jalangi and Mathabhanga. The object of these observations is to determine the various sources from which the Hooghly derives its supply of fresh water, with a view to improvement in the general *regime* of the river, first on the grounds of sanitation of the adjoining countries and, secondly, because the Hooghly at Calcutta is of prime importance to the Port.

Upper Hooghly and its feeder rivers.

482. The report submitted by Major F. C. Hirst, I.A., Director of Surveys, Bengal and Assam, was under compilation during the year.

NORTHERN CIRCLE.

Ganges River at Rampur Boalia.

483. Training works were carried out on the inner channel of the river Ganges at Rampur-Boalia in order to improve navigation, sanitary conditions and water-supply of the town. Bandalling only was done as the dredging operations of 1914-15 had proved a failure. The total amount spent on the operations was Rs. 11,782 towards which the Steamer Companies, the District Board, Rajshahi, and the Rampur-Boalia Municipality contributed Rs. 5,500.

EASTERN CIRCLE.

Dhaleswari and Buriganga rivers.

484. The work of improving the Dhaleswari and Buriganga rivers for navigation and for the water-supply of the town of Dacca was carried out during the year by bandalling operations only, at a cost of Rs. 29,493. The river Dhaleswari was open for light draft steamer traffic from Dacca as far as Palara almost throughout the year. The river Buriganga was open for steamer traffic only during the rains.

Karnafuli River.

485. Between Chittagong and Rangamati (the headquarters of the Chittagong Hill Tracts) the only practical means of communication or outlet

for traffic is the river Karnafuli. During the months of April and November there is generally sufficient water to permit of launches and shallow draft river steamers plying throughout at any state of the tide, but after October navigation is difficult owing to the formation of shoals. The worst of these shoals is from the 24th to the 29th mile above Chittagong between Kodala and Chandraghona extending over a distance of about 3½ miles. Experimental training works were carried out on these shoals by means of bandalling at a cost of Rs. 5,403. The operations resulted in a navigable channel being kept open for launch traffic up to a draft of 4′ throughout the dry season at all states of the tide, but it is probable that owing to tidal action all traces of the improvement on these sand shoals will have disappeared by the end of the flood season and that similar operations would be necessary each dry season if a channel navigable for launch traffic is to be maintained at all states of the tide.

Embankment and Drainage.

[The Embankment and Drainage Reports for the year 1915-16.]

Expenditure.

486. The expenditure on embankments including the charges for Establishment and Tools and Plant was Rs. 7,58,179 and on Drainage Works Rs. 90,574 during the year.

Length of Embankments.

487. The total length of embankments of all classes maintained by Government is 1,368 miles. These embankments protect an area of 37,94,335 acres.

Floods and breaches.

488. There were no high floods in any of the rivers during the year and no breaches in the embankments except one in the Bhagirathi embankment, Schedule D, No. 94, on the left bank of the river near mile 35½, but no damage was caused thereby.

Surveys.

489. The following surveys were carried out during the year:—

(1) Special surveys were made in connection with the proposed escape Channel for flood water from the Cossye and Selye rivers across the Chetua Circuit into the Rupnarayan and improvement of the Hoorhoora Khal.
(2) A survey was made in connection with the drainage through the Soadighi and Ganga Khali Khals.
(3) A survey was undertaken in connection with a proposed retired line of embankment at Orphully in the 10th mile of the Rupnarain Left Embankment and for making a drainage sluice at Mellock in the 5th mile of the Embankment and for a Channel to drain a certain area in the vicinity.
(4) The Madaria Khal Left Embankment was surveyed from Dilakas to Govindpur in connection with proposals for remodelling.
(5) Some petty Khas Mahal Surveys in Lot No. 306 Sundarbans were undertaken.
(6) Preliminary surveys for preparing a scheme for regulating reservoir in the Barâkar valley were also carried out.

Works undertaken under the provisions of (a). The Bengal Drainage Act VI of 1880.

490. The Dankuni, Howrah, Rajapore and Burrajolla Drainage Works were maintained at a cost of Rs. 19,697 against the average amount of Rs. 11,300 fixed for their maintenance.

(b) The Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act VIII of 1895.

491. The Magra Hât Drainage Scheme, the only work carried out under the Act, was maintained during the year at a cost of Rs. 39,749 against a revenue of Rs. 23,864. The administration of the toll system in this scheme is now in its infancy, but is gradually improving. A better system of collection of toll charges has recently been introduced. It is expected that this will soon result in a net revenue, which will meet the cost of maintenance and repairs of the scheme.

(c) The Bengal Embankment Act II of 1882.

192. The construction of a seven-vented sluice at Mahamaya in the district of 24-Parganas was in progress, the expenditure on the work to end of the year being Rs. 1,30,305 against the revised estimate for Rs. 1,41,851. The work of remodelling the Bistoopur Zemindary Embankment was completed during the year at a cost of Rs. 86,297 against the sanctioned revised estimate of Rs. 70,492. A large number of sluices in Schedule D Embankments were efficiently maintained at the cost of the estates which are benefited.

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

A.—Gross Revenue.

493. The following statement shows the gross revenue (*i.e.*, the total of Imperial and Provincial Revenues) for 1915-16 as compared with that of 1914-15 :— Gross Revenue.

[The figures are in thousands.]

Receipts.	1914-15.			1915-16.		
	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Principal Heads of Revenue—						
I.—Land Revenue ...	1,27,49	1,55,18	2,82,67	1,33,45	1,65,70	2,99,15
II.—Opium	1,93,11	...	1,93,11	2,45,66	...	2,45,66
III.—Salt	1,40,25	...	1,40,25	1,23,67	...	1,23,67
IV.—Stamp	1,01,34	1,01,34	2,02,68	1,12,19	1,12,19	2,24,38
V.—Excise	...	1,53,75	1,53,75	...	1,51,40	1,51,40
VI.—Provincial Rates ...	...	170	170	...	2,34	2,34
VII.—Customs	2,88,40	...	2,88,40	2,74,02	...	2,74,02
VIII.—Income-tax ...	34,92	34,92	69,84	36,13	36,13	72,26
IX.—Forests	...	13,05	13,05	...	11,46	11,46
X.—Registration ...	...	18,13	18,13	...	20,36	20,36
XI.—Tributes	68	...	68	68	...	68
Total ...	8,86,19	4,78,07	13,64,26	9,25,80	4,99,58	14,25,38
XII.—Interest	11,79	414	15,93	11,67	4,64	16,31
Receipts by Civil Department—						
XVI.—Law and Justice—						
A.—Courts of Law ...	...	8,60	8,60	...	8 44	8,44
B.—Jails	...	8,34	8,34	...	9,09	9,09
XVII.—Police	...	1,77	1,77	...	1,91	1,91
XVIII.—Ports and Pilotage ...	...	15,53	15,53	...	13 49	13,49
XIX.—Education ...	...	8,47	8,47	...	8,86	8,86
XX.—Medical	...	3,95	3,95	...	3,60	3,60
XXIA.—Agriculture ...	...	72	72	...	1,01	1,01
XXIB.—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.	...	4,61	4,61	...	6,05	6,05
Total ...	...	51,99	51,99	...	52,45	52,45
Miscellaneous—						
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation.	1,88	59	2,47	1,71	55	2,26
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing.	...	1,50	1,50	...	1,33	1,33
XXV.—Miscellaneous ...	44	6,71	7,15	58	6,53	7,11
Total ...	2,32	8,80	11,12	2,29	8,41	10,70
Irrigation—						
XXIX.—Major Works (direct receipts).	1,27	1,27	2,54	1,39	1,39	2,78
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation—						
By Public Works Department.	2,43	2,43	4,86	3,14	3,14	6,28
By Civil Department	25	25	50	26	26	52
Total ...	3,95	3,95	7,90	4,79	4,79	9,58
Buildings and Roads—						
XXXI.—Civil Works—						
By Public Works Department.	57	5,63	6,20	76	4,72	5,48
By Civil Department.	...	1,46	1,46	....	1,47	1,47
Total ...	57	7,09	7,66	76	6,19	6,95
Transfer between Imperial and Provincial Revenues	−68,06	+68,06	...	−58,31	+58,31	....
Grand Total ...	8,36,76	6,22,10	14,58,86	8,87,09	6,34,37	15,21,37

The chief variations are explained in the sections on Imperial and Provincial Finances.

B.—Imperial Revenue and Finance.

Receipts.

494. The following statement shows the Imperial receipts in 1915-16 as compared with those of 1914-15.

Major Heads.	1914-15.	1915-16.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Land Revenue	1,27,49,270	1,33,44,869	5,95,599	...
II.—Opium	1,93,10,929	2,45,65,780	52,54,851	...
III.—Salt	1,40,25,260	1,23,67,112	...	16,58,148
IV.—Stamps	1,01,34,132	1,12,18,670	10,84,538	...
VII.—Customs	2,88,39,684	2,74,02,371	...	14,37,313
VIII.—Income-tax	34,92,305	36,13,343	1,21,038	...
XI.—Tributes	67,701	67,701	...	...
XII.—Interest	11,78,662	11,66,501	...	12,161
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation.	1,88,323	1,70,882	...	17,441
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing ...	439	14	...	425
XXV.—Miscellaneous	43,447	58,178	14,731	...
XXIX.—Irrigation Major Works ...	1,26,981	1,39,040	12,059	...
XXX.—Irrigation Minor Works—Civil.	24,725	26,408	1,683	...
XXX.—Irrigation Minor Works—Public Works.	2,43,233	3,13,865	70,632	...
XXXI.—Civil Works—Public Works ...	57,091	75,666	18,575	...
Transfers between Imperial and Provincial.	- 68,05,878	- 58,30,663	+ 9,75,215	...
Total ...	8,36,76,304	8,86,99,537	81,48,721	31,25,488
			50,23,233	

The variations shown in the above table were mainly due to the following causes:—*Land Revenue*—Larger recoveries of Survey and Settlement charges in the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh. *Opium*—Larger supply to the Government of the Straits Settlements and Hongkong, larger price obtained at the sales and larger sale in England for medical purposes. *Salt*—Decrease due to the restricted imports from Aden and other places owing to the scarcity of tonnage and high freights as a result of the European War and decrease in consumption on account of high prices owing to the rise in price of imported salt and to the enhancement of duty from Re. 1 to Re. 1-4 per maund with effect from the 1st March 1916. *Stamps*—Partial recovery of trade and the opening of the share market as well as to the abnormally large duties paid in the probate of two wills which alone brought in over Rs. 4,87,000. *Customs*—Dislocation of sea-borne trade. *Income-tax*—Larger profits derived by sugar and iron merchants and partly from more careful assessment. *Interest*—Gradual repayment of the Kidderpore Dock loan. *Superannuation*—Decrease caused by expenditure on improvement in the Kidderpore Orphanganj market which is adjusted in the accounts by reduction of receipts. *Miscellaneous*—Inclusion of receipts arising out of the war which are adjusted here. *Major Irrigation Works*—Imports in navigation receipts in the Tidal Canal which showed considerable contraction in 1914-15 owing to heavy floods. *Irrigation Minor Works*—Larger navigation receipts in the Madaripur Bhil route owing to development of traffic. *Civil Works*—Realization of rent of premises No. 3,

Koilaghat Street occupied by the offices of the Eastern Bengal Railway. *Transfer between Imperial and Provincial*—Smaller assignments to Provincial.

495. The following table shows the Imperial expenditure in 1915-16 as compared with those of 1914-15. Expenditure.

MAJOR HEADS.	1914-15.	1915-16.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Refunds and Drawbacks ...	8,04,493	6,35,942	...	1,68,551
2. Assignments and Compensations ...	99,083	91,923	...	7,160
3. Land Revenue	23,07,065	19,23,008	...	3,84,057
4. Opium	22,962	20,579	...	2,383
5. Salt	2,86,747	2,70,435	...	16,312
6. Stamps	3,11,133	2,91,355	...	19,778
9. Customs	13,53,720	13,34,991	...	18,729
10. Income-tax	77,942	76,482	...	560
14. Interest on other obligations ...	1,45,648	1,67,447	21,799	...
18. General Administration ...	4,80,466	4,95,531	15,065	...
23. Ecclesiastical	1,90,758	1,89,362	...	1,396
25. Political	5,400	5,600	200	...
26B. Scientific and other Miscellaneous Departments.	2,026	2,007	...	19
27. Territorial and Political Pensions	7,45,598	7,21,388	...	24,210
28. Civil Furlough and Absentee Allowances.	...	219	219	...
29. Superannuation, etc. ...	38,059	36,344	...	1,715
30. Stationery and Printing ...	65,220	74,345	9,125	...
32. Miscellaneous	86,239	1,04,969	18,730	...
35. Protective Irrigation Works ...	2,534	1,723	...	811
42. Irrigation—Major Works—Interest on D.bt.	2,04,433	2,02,872	...	1,561
Irrigation—Major Works—Working Expenses (P. W.)	1,28,850	98,311	...	30,839
43. Irrigation—Minor Works—(Civil)	10,657	1,022	...	9,635
Ditto ditto (P. W.)	13,69,847	11,59,337	...	2,10,510
45. Civil Works (Civil)	5,000	5,000	...	...
Ditto (P. W.) ...	13,41,137	9,68,189	...	3,72,948
	1,00,84,117	88,78,081	65,138	12,71,174
Total ...	...	...	12,06,036	

The reasons for the principal fluctuations are as follows :—*Refunds and Drawbacks*—Heavy payments were made in 1914-15 of drawbacks of customs duty owing to re-export of Java and Mauritius sugar to the United Kingdom and other places. *Assignments and Compensations*—Smaller payments of Malikana. *Land Revenue*—Smaller Survey and Settlement expenditure owing to the completion of Settlement work in Faridpur and Jalpaiguri. *Salt*—Smaller expenditure on turn-tables and salt weighing scales and weights. *Stamps*—Decline in consumption of plain paper. *Customs*—Some of the preventive officers having joined the military service a saving was effected in the salaries. Owing to the slackness of trade smaller payments were made for overtime allowances and extra preventive officers. *Interest on other obligations*—Growth of the General Provident Fund. *General Administration*—Higher pay of Chief Superintendents and payment of leave

allowances, as well as advertisement charges in connection with the new 4 per cent. loan of 1915-16. *Territorial and Political Pensions*—Discontinuance of pension of Prince Bukhtyar Shah owing to his death. *Stationery and Printing*—Larger supply of paper to the Settlement Department. *Miscellaneous*—Larger expenditure arising out of the war. *Irrigation Major Works (working expenses)*—Smaller expenditure on "Maintenance and Repairs" of the Hijli Tidal Canal. *Minor Works and Navigation*—Special expenditure incurred in 1914-15 in the purchase of dredging plants. *Civil Works*—Special expenditure in 1914-15 for the construction of Chittagong Salt *Golas* and additions to the Central Telegraph Office, Calcutta.

Land Revenue.

[*See* Chapter II of this Report.]

Canal Revenue.

[*See* Chapter IV of this Report—Canals.]

Sources of Revenue other than Land.

CUSTOMS.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for the year 1915-16. Statistics of British India, Part IV.—(*b*) Finance and Revenue Accounts.]

Revenue from Customs.

496. The gross revenue from Customs (inclusive of 1·78 lakh paid into district treasuries on account of salt imported into Calcutta) amounted to Rs. 3,76,95,000 against Rs. 4,06,38,000 in the previous year. Refunds amounted to Rs. 5,06,000 against Rs. 6,61,000, so that the net revenue amounted to Rs. 3,71,89,000 representing a decrease of 7 per cent. During the year the Indian Tariff (Amendment) Act, IV of 1916, was passed. By this Act several changes were made in the tariff rates, which were generally enhanced. Two noticeable additions were an export duty on tea and export duty on jute, raw and manufactured. Although the new tariff was in force for only one month during the year, the following increases in revenue were obtained :—

Sugar, Rs. 2·17 lakhs; *machinery*, Rs. 40,000; *liquors*, Rs. 60,000; *metals*, Rs. 30,000; *jute*, Rs. 1·71 lakh, and tea Rs. 41,722.

The gross import duties amounted to Rs. 370·66 lakhs, of which Rs. 107·13 lakhs (including inland collections) were yielded by salt alone. The total receipts from other articles fell by Rs. 39·50 lakhs. This was chiefly due to a decrease in the case of cotton goods (Rs. 11·58 lakhs), salt (Rs. 15·65 lakhs), petroleum (Rs. 5·89 lakhs) and metals other than silver (Rs. 4·13 lakhs). Cotton goods fell off by reason of an overstocked market and higher prices, while the decrease in copper, silver, all other metals, petroleum and salt was due to higher prices and freights and to scarcity of tonnage. Woollen goods also showed a decrease of Rs. 86 lakhs owing to the cessation of imports from Germany and Austria. Refunds and Drawbacks fell from Rs. 6·61 lakhs to Rs. 5·06 lakhs.

Net Revenue.

497. The net income of the Calcutta Custom House amounted to Rs. 3,60,70,508 against Rs. 3,89,30,580 of the previous year, representing a decrease of nearly 7 per cent. The net income of the subordinate ports decreased from Rs. 16,82,509 in 1914-15 to Rs. 15,21,549 owing to smaller receipts from salt.

Cases under the Sea Customs Act.

498. The number of cases of infringement of the Sea Customs Act was 455 against 416 in the previous year. Of these, 307 related to undervaluation and other misdeclarations, and these included 26 cases in which notices under section 32 were issued. In two cases goods were taken over on behalf of Government and disposed of at a profit in each case.

Cases under the Merchandise Marks Act.

499. The number of cases of infringement under the Merchandise Marks Act was 638 against 300 in the previous year. Of these 559 were in respect of false trade description, of which Japan alone was responsible for 414. The penalties realised during the year amounted to Rs. 9,789 against Rs. 4,973 last year and Rs. 21,055 in the preceding year.

SALT.

[Salt Administration Report for the year 1915-16. Statistics of British India, Part IV.—(*b*) Finance and Revenue Accounts.]

Administration.

500. The Excise and Salt Departments under the Commissioner of Excise and Salt were amalgamated during the year under report.

There was an increase in the operations under the salt credit system. Securities to the extent of Rs. 45,58,800 were deposited during the year against Rs. 43,34,500 in 1914-15. The amount of duty *debited* during the year under the system was Rs. 87,57,960 against Rs. 92,20,683 in the previous year. There were 44 depositors, four of whom closed their accounts, leaving a balance of 40 against 37 in the previous year. The duty on Salt was raised from Re. 1 to Re. 1-4 per maund with effect from the 1st March 1916.

Imports.

501. The total imports into Calcutta increased by 14·5 per cent. There was an increase in imports from the United Kingdom, Spain, Port Said and Massowah, due to the demand for salt and the low stocks at the close of the year 1914-15. The decrease in imports from Aden was due to the unsettled state of the country owing to the war, and that from Bombay to the want of tonnage. No salt came from Salif.

There was an increase of nearly 6½ lakhs of maunds or 59·5 per cent. in the imports into the port of Chittagong. While imports from Aden decreased by 82·9 per cent. there was an increase of 176·7 per cent. in imports from Port Said. Eight lakhs sixty thousand and seventy-two maunds of salt were imported from Spain against *Nil* in the previous year.

Consumption and prices.

502. The total quantity of salt which passed into consumption in this Presidency during the year 1915-16 was 7,855,974 maunds exclusive of 4,782,859 maunds, the net export by rail, road or river, but inclusive of 60 maunds educed from saltpetre. The average wholesale price per maund of salt, inclusive of duty was 9 annas and 10 pies higher than in the previous year. This increase was a result of the rise in the price of imported salt and of the enhancement in the duty. The average wholesale price per 100 maunds of Liverpool salt as sold from the ship's side in the port of Calcutta, exclusive of duty, was Rs. 142-8-9 against Rs. 77-4-9 in 1914-15. Prices in the salt market in Calcutta ruled high throughout the year, but there was a temporary fall during the second quarter when, owing to increased importations, the stocks at the *golas* were large. The year closed with abnormal prices consequent on very high freights and an anticipated enhancement of the salt duty.

Financial results.

503. As compared with 1914-15 receipts show a decrease of Rs. 16,58,113 or 11·8 per cent. and charges a decrease of Rs. 52,251, or 14·1 per cent. The net revenue was Rs. 1,20,50,450, which was less than that of the previous year by Rs. 16,05,862 or 11·7 per cent.

Trade in Saltpetre.

504. The quantity of salt educed in the process of refinement of saltpetre was 40 maunds against 24 maunds in 1914-15, and the quantity of *sitta* (impure salt) left in the course of refinement was 8 maunds against 41 maunds in the previous year. Sixty maunds of educed salt were sold during the year against 80 maunds in 1914-15.

EXCISE.

[The Report on the Administration of the Excise Department, Bengal, 1915-16. Statistics of British India, Part IV.—(*b*) Finance and Revenue.]

Excise Reorganization.

505. During the year the new reorganization scheme was carried further into effect, but it was not possible to bring the cadre of Inspectors up to its full strength, and the readjustment of the grading is not yet complete.

Excise Advisory Committees and Licensing Boards.

506. The system of Advisory Committees throughout the districts, and of Licensing Boards in Calcutta and the neighbouring municipalities, remained in force. The recommendations of the Advisory Committees were accepted in the majority of cases. In accordance with these recommendations 61 sites were changed, 20 shops abolished and two new shops sanctioned. In only 11 cases was it found impracticable to adopt the recommendations of the Advisory Committees for a change of site. As regards the abolition of shops, the Excise authorities were unable in 19 cases to accept the recommendations of the Advisory Committees; but against this must be set the fact that in 18 cases the Excise authorities felt bound to reject proposals made by Advisory Committees for the opening of new shops. The recommendations of the Licensing Boards of Calcutta and its suburbs were all accepted and with one exception were carried into effect.

Revenue.

507. The total Excise revenue showed a decrease of Rs. 2,29,346, being Rs. 1,51,30,570 against Rs. 1,53,59,916 in the previous year. The only heads which showed an increase were spirits manufactured in India paying higher duties than country spirits (Rs. 31,330), *pachwai* (Rs. 27,986), opium (Rs. 2,13,568) and *bhang* (Rs. 2,693.) The most noteworthy increase is in the revenue derived from opium. This occurred in spite of considerable reduction in consumption. It was due partly to the increase in the treasury price which was introduced from the 1st April 1915, and partly to increased competition for licenses following on higher retail prices and increased profits. There were large decreases under country spirit (Rs. 3,33,423), *ganja* (Rs. 1,13,858) and *tari* (Rs. 33,779). The net result was that the incidence of the Excise revenue fell to 5 annas 4 pies from 5 annas 5 pies in the previous year.

Country Spirit.

508. The system of contract supply was the only system in force during the year. There was a reduction of 69 in the number of shops, and consumption decreased by 52,799 proof gallons. This reduction in consumption was general throughout the Presidency with the exception of one district, Jalpaiguri. The falling off was largest in the 24-Parganas (6,933 proof gallons), Burdwan (6,463 proof gallons), Calcutta (5,422 proof gallons), Midnapore (5,067 proof gallons), Bankura (4,075 proof gallons), and Malda (3,050 proof gallons). The general decrease was mainly due to the continuance of the economic depression and high prices caused by the war and in some areas to a partial failure of crops. The increase in consumption in Jalpaiguri district was not only due to the flourishing condition of the tea industry but also to the efforts made to check the smuggling of outstill liquor from Bhutan.

Out of the total decrease of Rs. 3,33,423 in revenue, that from duty and distillery fees amounted to Rs. 2,58,919, while the decrease from license-fees was Rs. 74,504.

Tari.

509. The total number of licenses issued for the sale of fermented and fresh *tari* decreased from 1,744 to 1,742, and the total receipts from Rs. 4,86,642 to Rs. 4,52,863 or by Rs. 33,779.

Pachwai.

510. The total number of licenses issued was 28,460 as compared with 25,301 in the previous year. The revenue from retail license-fees increased from Rs. 8,60,654 to Rs. 8,83,978, or by Rs. 23,324. The increase was considerable in Burdwan, Murshidabad and Birbhum.

Foreign Liquor.

511. The total number of licenses issued for the wholesale and retail vend of potable foreign liquor, exclusive of licenses for the retail sale of medicated wines and rectified spirits, was 641 against 656 in the previous year. The total receipts from license-fees amounted to Rs. 3,73,939 as compared with 3,99,968 in 1914-15. The receipts from duty on Indian-made foreign liquor were Rs. 3,06,794 against Rs. 2,75,464 in the preceding year.

Ganja.

512. The total number of licenses issued in the Presidency for the retail sale of *ganja* was 1,275 as compared with 1,347 in 1914-15. The revenue from license-fees decreased by Rs. 2,30,594, while that from duty increased by Rs. 1,16,736, the result being a net decrease of Rs. 1,13,858 in the total receipts. There was a decrease of 446 maunds in the quantity of *ganja* consumed, the figures being 2,138 maunds against 2,584 maunds in 1914-15. The decrease exceeded 10 per cent. in every district. Tippera and Bankura, in which the largest proportionate decreases occurred, both suffered from scarcity during the year. The incidence of license-fees per seer of *ganja*

consumed was Rs. 18·3 and that of duty Rs. 20. The total taxation was 38·3 per seer as compared with 32·4 in the preceding year.

513. The total consumption within the Presidency amounted to 629 maunds 13 seers against 671 maunds 25 seers in the previous year. The total revenue both from license-fees and duty amounted to Rs. 1,09,646 as compared with Rs. 1,06,953 in 1914-15. **Bhang.**

514. The number of retail licenses during the year was 33 against 35 in 1914-15, and the total revenue amounted to Rs. 44,306 as compared with Rs. 48,883 of the previous year. There was a fall of Rs. 5,477 in the receipts from license-fees, whilst receipts from duty increased by Rs. 900. **Charas.**

515. The system under which the issue of opium to retail shops is restricted to the estimated local demand continued in Midnapore, Hooghly, Howrah, the 24-Parganas, Calcutta, Khulna, Bakarganj and Chittagong, and in a few shops in Birbhum, Nadia, Jessore and Malda. During the year restrictions were imposed on the issues to a few shops in the district of Dinajpur in which consumption had given cause for suspicion in the previous year. The total number of licenses issued for the retail sale of opium was 824 against 859 in 1914-15. The decrease was due to the abolition of 35 shops during the year. The consumption of opium decreased by nearly 266 maunds, the figures being 1,288 maunds 15 seers as compared with 1,554 maunds 11 seers in the previous year. The decrease was general throughout all districts, except in Jalpaiguri, where there was an increase of 17 seers due to the influx of a large number of Assamese coolies to work in the tea gardens in the Duars. The decrease in the consumption was, however, accompanied by a large increase of Rs. 2,13,568 in revenue, the total receipts being Rs. 31,35,892 against Rs. 29,22,324 of the preceding year. **Opium.**

516. The total number of licenses issued to chemists, druggists, qualified medical practitioners and dentists for the sale of cocaine were 204 against 220 in 1914-15, while the license-fees realised amounted to Rs. 221 against Rs. 220 in the preceding year. Thirty licenses for the possession of cocaine were issued free to managers of hospitals or dispensaries not under Government supervision, viz., 22 licenses for tea gardens in Jalpaiguri and 8 for charitable dispensaries in Calcutta, Midnapore, Burdwan and Murshidabad. The abuse of cocaine continues in Calcutta and the neighbouring parts of the 24-Parganas, in the Serampore and part of the Sadar subdivision of the district of Hooghly, in the towns of Burdwan, Asansol and Raniganj and in Dacca city. Arrests for illicit possession of cocaine decreased by 168, but this cannot be regarded as an indication of a decrease in the cocaine habit and is explained by the fact that the energies of the preventive officers were directed against the larger rather than the petty dealers. Excise officers seized 509 ounces of cocaine as compared with 64 ounces in 1914-15, and successfully prosecuted a leading member of one of the largest and best known gangs, besides four other considerable dealers. The Customs officers did extremely good work and seized 826 ounces as compared with 779 ounces in the previous year. The total quantity seized in Bengal was 86 lbs. 12 ozs. 25 grs. (avoirdupois) against 62 lbs. 5 ozs. 102 grs. in the previous year. **Cocaine.**

517. The total number of persons arrested on charges under the Excise and Opium laws during the year was 4,780 as compared with 3,935 in the previous year, and 4,226 persons were convicted against 3,589 in 1914-15. **Excise offences.**

STAMPS.

[Annual Statistics of the Stamp Department for the year 1915-16. Statistics of British India, Part IV.—(*b*) Finance and Revenue.]

518. The total receipts under the Stamp and Court-fees Acts rose from Rs. 2,05,06,462 in 1914-15 to Rs. 2,26,77,076 in 1915-16, an increase of 10·5 per cent. The increase occurred both in judicial and non-judicial stamps and is generally attributable to a return to normal conditions after the first adverse effects of the war. As compared with pre-war figures of 1913-14, there is an increase of about 4½ lakhs or 2·03 per cent. The charges during the year amounted to Rs. 5,52,672 against Rs. 5,37,485 in 1914-15. **Revenue.**

132993

Judicial stamps.

519. The sale-proceeds from Court-fee stamps (excluding stamps for copies) rose from Rs. 1,35,28,272 in 1914-15 to Rs. 1,47,33,963. The increase occurred in all the five Divisions, the largest being in the Presidency and Dacca Divisions.

Non-judicial stamps.

520. The receipts from the sale of non-judicial stamps rose from Rs. 59,86,509 in 1914-15 to Rs. 69,38,032 showing an increase of Rs. 9,51,523. The increase was contributed by all the Divisions. The increase in the Presidency Division was Rs. 4,80,900 of which Rs. 4,29,683 occurred in Calcutta. There was an increase of Rs. 2,47,204 in the Dacca Division and Rs. 1,09,536 in the Rajshahi Division.

Sale of stamps.

521. The number of vendors who held licenses to sell stamps during the year 1915-16 was 5,092 against 5,232 in the previous year, but the amount of discount allowed to such vendors increased from Rs. 3,13,343 in 1914-15 to Rs. 3,55,734.

Deficient duty.

522. The total number of cases in which deficient duty and penalty were levied by the Courts under section 35 of Act II of 1899 during the year rose very slightly from 2,002 in 1914-15 to 2,209, and the amount of duty and penalty realised from Rs. 13,661 in the previous year to Rs. 13,754. The total number of cases decided by Revenue Courts under sections 32, 37, 40 and 41 of the Act also increased from 2,806 to 2,926, and the amount of duty and penalty realised from Rs. 36,400 to Rs. 72,047, the bulk of the increase being contributed by Calcutta (Rs. 31,784).

Prosecutions under the Stamp Act.

523. The number of cases instituted for the infringement of the provisions of the Stamp Act was 332 against 740 in the preceding year, while 342 persons were brought to trial and 291 persons convicted against 758 and 731, respectively, in the previous year. The fines imposed fell off from Rs. 4,469 in 1914-15 to Rs. 2,758. The amount of rewards paid to informers was Rs. 1,080, as compared with Rs. 2,087 in the previous year.

Working of section 19H of the Court-fees Act.

524. Enquiries were made in 90·1 per cent. of the cases of valuation of estates for the issue of probates or letters of administration reported during the year against 88·5 per cent. of the previous year. The percentage borne by the deficient court-fees realised to the amount originally paid was 18·4, as compared with 8·4 in the previous year.

INCOME-TAX.

[Statistical information regarding the Income-tax Department for the year 1915-16. Statistics of British India, Part IV.—(*b*) Finance and Revenue.]

Financial result.

525. The receipts, charges and net revenue under the head "Income-tax" during the year 1915-16 were Rs. 72,30,111, Rs. 1,72,175 and Rs. 70,57,936. The net revenue showed an increase of about 3·5 per cent. over that of the previous year

Collection.

526. The total collections made by District Officers on account of the tax under all parts during the year 1915-16 showed an increase of Rs. 52,177 or ·9 per cent. over those of 1914-15. To this increase Part I (salaries, pensions, annuities and gratuities) contributed Rs. 53,640, Part III (securities) Rs. 6,235 and Part IV (other sources) Rs. 1,43,001. There was a decrease of Rs. 1,50,699 under Part II (Companies).

The percentage of tax collected under each Part on the total amount of the tax collected during the year 1915-16 was as follows :—

Part I—Salaries, pensions, etc.	...	...	17·0
Part II—Profits of companies	...	...	28·7
Part III—Interest on securities	...	...	2·8
Part IV—Other sources ...	...	...	51·5

Assessments.

527. The total number of persons finally assessed in 1915-16 amounted to 54,736, showing an increase of 1·03 per cent. over the figures for 1914-15, whilst the final demand showed an increase of 1·4 per cent. over the figures for that year.

Incidence of tax.

528. Excluding Calcutta only one person in every 1,355 of the population paid income-tax, and the average amount paid by each assessee was Rs. 56. In Calcutta the proportion was one person in 55 and the average tax paid, Rs. 214.

Forest Revenue.

[*See* Chapter IV of this Report—Forests.]

C—Revenue and Finance other than Imperial.

PROVINCIAL FINANCE.

529. The following statement shows the actual receipts and charges on account of Provincial Services for 1915-16, as compared with those of 1914-15 :— Receipts and Expenditure.

(The figures are in thousands of rupees.)

RECEIPTS.	ACTUALS. 1914-15.	ACTUALS. 1915-16.
	Rs.	Rs.
Principal Heads of Revenue—		
I.—Land Revenue	1,55,18	1,55,79
IV.—Stamps	1,01,34	1,12,19
V.—Excise	1,33,75	1,51,60
VI.—Provincial rates	1,70	2,24
VIII.—Income-tax	24,97	26,13
IX.—Forests	13,06	11,46
X.—Registration	19,15	20,35
Total ...	4,79,07	4,99,36
XII.—Interest	4,14	4,64
Receipts by Civil Department—		
XVI.—Law and Justice—		
(A) Courts of Law	3,60	5,44
(B) Jails	8,34	9,29
XVII.—Police	1,77	1,91
XVIII.—Ports and Pilotage	13,53	13,49
XIX.—Education	8,47	8,96
XX.—Medical	2,95	3,63
XXIA.—Agriculture	72	1,01
XXIB.—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.	4,61	6,05
Total	51,99	57,46
Miscellaneous—		
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation.		
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing ...	59	55
XXV.—Miscellaneous	1,00	1,25
	5,71	6,53
Total	8,87	9,41
Irrigation—		
XXIX. Major Works (direct receipts).	1,27	1,39
XXX—Minor Works and Navigation—		
By Public Works Department.	2,43	3,14
By Civil Department ...	26	26
Total	3,96	4,79
Buildings and Roads—		
XXXI.—Civil Works—		
By Public Works Department.	5,63	4,72
By Civil Department ...	1,46	1,47
Total	7,09	6,19
Transfers between Imperial and Provincial Revenues.	63,06	58,21
Total Receipts ...	6,22,19	6,34,37

EXPENDITURE.	ACTUALS. 1914-15.	ACTUALS. 1915-16.
	Rs.	Rs.
Direct demand on the Revenues—		
1. Refunds and Drawbacks ...	2,01	1,81
2. Assignments and Compensations ...	24	24
3 Land Revenue	33,80	37,67
6. Stamps	3,11	3,91
7. Excise	7,18	7,76
10. Income-tax	77	77
11. Forests	6 71	5,94
13. Registration	11,17	11,27
Total	63,19	68,42
15. Interest on ordinary debt ...	4,40	4,77
Salaries and Expenses of Civil Department—		
18. General Administration	24,18	23,89
19. Law and Justice { (a) Courts of Law	1,05,78	1,08,11
19. Law and Justice { (b) Jails	22,51	25,07
20. Police	1,03,75	1,06,95
21. Ports and Pilotage	13,79	13,55
22. Education	92,07	94,23
24. Medical	30,15	30,99
25. Political	19	21
26A. Agriculture	10,32	11,39
26B. Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.	5,16	4,47
Total	4,08,76	4,09,67
Miscellaneous—		
29. Superannuation, etc.	31,09	31,42
30. Stationery and Printing ...	12,70	13,01
33. Miscellaneous	4,28	6,39
Total	49,07	50,82
Famine Relief and Insurance—		
33. Famine Relief	...	...
34. Reduction or avoidance of debt ...	60	60
Railways (Revenue Accounts)—		
40. Subsidised Companies—Land, etc. ...	...	...
Total	60	60
Irrigation—		
42. Major Works—		
Working expenses	1,29	98
Interest on debt	1,75	1,74
43. Minor Works and Navigation—		
By Public Works Department ...	12,70	11,89
By Civil Department	11	1
Total	16,85	14,32
Buildings and Roads—		
45. Civil Works—		
By Public Works Department ...	1,00,88	97,78
By Civil Department	23,92	31,53
Total	1,24,74	29,31
Total charges ...	6,67,61	6,30,71

530. The increase under *Land Revenue* was due chiefly to improved collections, including arrears in Government Estates and also to the sale of certain Khas Mahal lands to the Calcutta Improvement Trust. The variations under the heads *Stamps, Income Tax and Irrigation Major and Minor Works*, which are divided heads, have been explained in the section on Imperial Finance. The decrease under *Excise* occurred under the head License and Receipts.

Distillery Fees and was due to a reduced consumption of excisable articles consequent on the general economic depression and prevalence of high prices. The increase under *Provincial Rates* was due to the larger collection of arrears of Public Works Cess which accrued prior to 1913-14. The decrease under *Forests* was due to congestion in the timber market owing to bad sales on account of the war, and the increase under *Registration* to an increase in the number of registrations largely owing to the effects of flood and scarcity in certain tracts. The increase under *Interest* was due mainly to larger recoveries from landholders, municipalities and public corporations, while the decrease under *Courts of Law* is explained by smaller receipts on account of magisterial fines. The increase under *Jails* was due to larger supplies to other Departments and Provinces, and that under *Police* was caused by recovery from the Calcutta Municipal Corporation of the cost of guards supplied to protect water-works and by larger receipts under the Motor Vehicles Act. The decrease under *Ports and Pilotage* was due to a decline in the number of inward vessels, and the increase under *Education* to the provincialisation of the Madrassahs and the opening of the residential school at Hastings House. Smaller receipts from paying patients caused a decrease under *Medical*, and larger sales of manure and farm produce and increased fees and fines of the Veterinary School accounted for the increase under *Agriculture*. The large increase under *Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments*, was due to larger sales of quinine, and the decrease under *Stationery and Printing* to the special receipts in 1914-15 from the sale of waste paper, etc., from the Dacca Jail Press, while that under *Miscellaneous* was due to smaller credits on account of unclaimed deposits. The decrease under *Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department*, was due to non-recovery of the Government share of profits of the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway.

Expenditure.

531. The decrease under *Refunds and Drawbacks* was, in consequence, chiefly of smaller refunds of arrears of Public Works Cess which accrued prior to 1913-14. The variations under *Assignments and Compensations*, *Stamps and Irrigation—Major and Minor Works*, which are divided heads, have been explained in the section on Imperial Finance. The increase under *Excise* was the result of the re-organization of the Excise Department, while the decrease under *Forests* was due to the curtailment of expenditure on communications and buildings. The increase under *Registration* was due to larger expenditure on temporary establishment, and that under *Interest on ordinary debt* to larger advances on account of agricultural and other loans. The decrease under *General Administration* was due chiefly to smaller expenditure on His Excellency's railway saloon and furniture, and that under *Courts of Law* to smaller expenditure on law charges in political cases. The increase under *Jails* is explained by increased dietary charges owing to the high price of food grains as well as larger expenditure on clothing and bedding, and that under *Police* was mainly due to the raising of the pay of the head-constables and constables and increased charges of the Criminal Investigation Department for additional officers, etc. The decrease under *Ports and Pilotage* was due to the dislocation of sea-borne trade which reduced the earnings of pilots, while that under *Education* was nominal and due to special expenditure on land acquisition for the Calcutta University in 1914-15 and smaller expenditure in support of local schools. The decrease under *Medical* was due to smaller grants to private hospitals and dispensaries and to the deputation of the Indian Medical Service officers to military duty, while the increase under *Agriculture* was chiefly due to the expansion of the departments included under this head. The decrease under *Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments* was caused by the abandonment of certain fishery experiments and smaller expenditure on temporary establishment in the Cinchona Plantations, and that under *Superannuation* by smaller payments on account of commutation of pensions. The increase under *Stationery and Printing* was due to a larger supply of printing paper to the Forms Department, and that under *Miscellaneous* to expenditure on gratuitous relief in Bankura and Tippera. Smaller grants to municipalities for water-supply caused decrease under *Civil Works in charge of the Civil Department*, and that under *Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department* was due to smaller number of new works having been taken in hand and to diminished expenditure on land acquisition.

Local Funds.

[Report on Local Funds in Bengal for the year 1915-16.]

532. The following statement shows the income and expenditure and the opening and closing balances of the different Local Funds in the Province for the year 1915-16 :— Balances.

NAMES OF FUNDS	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
District Funds	43 30,230	1,06,93,661	1,50,23,891	1,16,72,370	33,51,521
District Road Fund, Darjeeling...	38,057	96,661	1,34,718	87,859	46,859
Union Funds—					
Faridpur	.....	1,893	1,893	1,893	.....
Khulna	941	6,186	7,127	6,381	746
Murshidabad	548	3,421	3,969	2,894	1,075
Birbhum	451	7,388	7,839	6,007	1,832
Burdwan	81	1,003	1,084	400	684
Jessore	4,992	11,776	16,768	11,601	5,167
Nadia	1,144	511	1,655	279	1,376
Total ...	8,157	32,178	40,335	29,455	10,880
Cantonment Funds—					
Alipore	1,808	1,802	3,610	2,477	1,133
Barrackpore	7,301	55,685	62 986	53,152	9,834
Dum Dum	2,001	20,691	22,692	21,334	1,358
Jalapahar	909	13,713	14,622	12,343	2,279
Lebong	2,147	10,275	12.422	8,221	4,201
Takdah	1,323	9,654	10,977	9.025	1,952
Total ...	15,489	1,11,820	1,27,309	1,06,552	20,757
Town and Bazar Funds—					
Chittagong Hill Tracts Bazar Funds.	7,713	6,344	14,057	12,402	1,655
Jalpaiguri Western Duars Market.	29,650	39,860	69 510	48,104	21,406
Total ...	37,363	46,204	83,567	60 506	23,061
Police Funds—					
District Chaukidari Reward Fund.	1,02,887	69,050	1,71,937	76,127	95,810
Fire Brigade	86,153	2,47,534	3,33,687	2,50,748	82,939
Foundling Asylum ...	24	3,419	3,443	3,416	27
Total ...	1,89,064	3,20,003	5,09,067	3,30,291	1,78,776
Marine Funds—					
Hospital Port Dues (Calcutta)	18,447	75,103	93,550	71,174	22,376
Hospital Port Dues (Chittagong).	4,743	6,240	10,983	5,592	5,391
Total ...	23,190	81,343	1,04,533	76,766	27,767
Education Funds—					
The Presidency College Graduate Scholarship Fund.	2,597	4,751	7,348	4,455	2,893
Durga Charan Laha's Fund	.....	2,970	2,970	2,970	.....
Total ...	2,597	7,721	10,318	7,425	2,893

Names of Funds.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payment.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Medical and Charitable Funds—					
Pilgrim Lodging House ...	9,563	6,900	16,463	7,657	8,806
Bengal Famine Orphan ...	6,615	1,222	7,837	...	7,837
Ram Lal Mukherjee's Endowment.	4,510	3,916	8,426	3,000	5,426
Joy Gobind Laha's ...	28,408	6,940	35,348	8,000	27,348
Imambara Hospital ...	11,008	15,877	26,885	16,237	10,648
Chittagong General Hospital	7,668	21,431	29,099	24,961	4,138
Total ...	67,772	56,286	1,24,058	59,855	64,203
Public Works Funds—					
Darjeeling Improvement Fund.	65,942	1,61,622	2,27,564	1,46,850	80,714
Miscellaneous Funds—					
Steam Boiler Inspection ...	46,246	91,971	1,38,217	92,376	45,841
Zoological Garden ...	14,471	81,168	95,579	65,786	29,793
Mohsin Endowment ...	960	1,00,191	1,01,151	91,733	9,418
Christian Burial Board ...	9,610	31,588	41,198	32,455	8,743
Muhammadan Burial Board	772	2,252	3,024	2,254	770
Total ...	72,059	3,07,110	3,79,169	2,84,604	94,565
Grand Total ...	48,49,920	1,19,14,609	1,67,64,529	1,28,62,533	39,01,996

Grants.

533. There were no transactions of the Cantonment Hospital Funds during the year and they had no balances. The Cantonment Funds received the following grants from the Military Department—Lebong Rs. 5,846, Jalapahar Rs. 4,556 and Takdah Rs. 7,820. The Durga Charan Laha's Fund received a grant of Rs. 1,196 from Government. There were no payments from the Bengal Famine Orphan Fund, but the charges from Ram Lal Mukherji Endowment and Joygobinda Laha's Funds represent grants paid to the Collector of Tippera for the relief of distress due to the inundation in that district.

The Darjeeling Improvement Fund received grants aggregating Rs. 2,279 for the improvement of the town and other purposes. Government Promissory notes of Rs. 17,000 were purchased during the year out of the balances of the Steam Boiler Inspection Fund. The Zoological Garden Fund received the usual grant of Rs. 20,000. The charges of all Government Madrassahs and grants-in-aid to non-Government Madrassahs are now met from Provincial Revenues instead of from the Mohsin Fund and the fees from students in Madrassahs were credited to Government. No Government grant was accordingly made to the fund. The Fund now bears half the boarding charges and half the fees and special scholarships of Muhammadan boys. The Muhammadan Burial Board Fund received a grant of Rs. 2,252 from the Provincial Revenues.

Road and Public Works Cesses.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1915-16.]

Rate.

534. Except in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, where the Act is not in force, the Road and Public Works Cesses continued to be levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee on the annual value of lands and annual net profits of mines and other immovable properties.

Demand and collection.

535. The current demand of Land Revenue for the cess-paying districts is Rs. 2,75,86,463 and the annual valuation or gross rental on which the cesses are based amounts to Rs. 12,07,84,485. The Land Revenue thus works out at 22·8 per cent. of the rental. As compared with the previous year, there was an increase of Rs. 2,13,488 in the current demand. The increase which

was due to valuations and revaluations and to the annual revision of assessment of mines was most prominent in the districts of Jalpaiguri (52,844), Burdwan (52,769), Faridpur (25,006), Dacca (24,589), Dinajpur (23,260) and Bakarganj (10,462). Taking the Presidency as a whole the percentage of collections rose from 96·9 to 100·6. The total outstanding balance of the year was Rs. 10,18,339 or 13·4 per cent. of the total demand against Rs. 9,31,620 or 12·9 per cent. in the previous year. The remissions decreased from Rs. 35,394 to Rs. 21,012.

Working of the certificate procedure.

536. The number of certificates filed for the realization of cess arrears was 50,814, as against 40,669 in the previous year. There was a noticeable increase in the number of institutions in the 24-Parganas (2,899), Faridpur (1,162) and Chittagong (4,060). The increase in the 24-Parganas was due to the realization of arrears in regard to the rent-free lands which were formerly under direct collection but have recently been amalgamated with their parent estates. In Faridpur, it was owing to the defaults caused by the depression in the jute market and the ignorance of the proprietors as to the demands fixed by the recent revaluation. In Chittagong, a large number of certificates was filed for petty arrears with a view to avoid limitation. Including 13,225 certificates pending from the previous year, the total number of certificates for disposal came to 64,039. Of these 49,262 or 76·9 per cent. were disposed of, leaving 14,777, as against 13,204 at the end of the preceding year. The number of cases pending over six months was 1,059. The mere issue of preliminary notices was sufficient to secure payments in 11,478 cases, while notices for the attachment of property, moveable or immoveable, induced payment in 26,636 cases. Sales actually took place in 2,110 cases as against 687 of the previous year.

Valuation and revaluation.

537. Revaluation operations under the control of the Settlement Department were in progress in the districts of Dacca. Noakhali and Rajshahi and were completed in Faridpur and Jalpaiguri. During the year revaluations on an extensive scale under the ordinary procedure were brought to a close in the district of Khulna. The revision proceedings in Bakarganj are in progress. The annual assessment of coal mines in the Asansol subdivision of the Burdwan district resulted in an increase of more than 5½ lakhs in the valuation.

Municipal Revenue.

[*See* Chapter III of this Report—Municipal Administration.]

CHAPTER VI—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

Vital Statistics.

[The Report of the Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal, for the year 1915. Statistics of British India—Part V.—Area, population and public health.]

General Results.

538. The outstanding feature of the returns of vital occurrences for the year 1915 is that, for the first time since 1892, when the present system of registering vital occurrences was introduced, the number of deaths in Bengal exceeded the recorded number of births. The excess amounted to 46,939 and was the result largely of widespread epidemics of cholera and small-pox, which caused altogether 163,464 deaths and partly also of reduced vitality consequent on the adverse economic conditions and bad agricultural seasons of this and previous years. The decrease of population was not uniform and was in fact confined to the Presidency, Burdwan and Rajshahi Divisions, a continued increase being recorded in the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions.

The year 1915 must be regarded as the worst of a cycle of bad years, for, since 1911, the rate at which the people of Bengal have added to their number has gradually diminished, as shown in the margin, till the annual increase gave place to an actual decrease in the year under review. The Burdwan Division, which has suffered severely from the ravages of fever, sustained a small loss (2 per mille) during the quinquennium, and the Presidency Division was practically stationary, its population increasing by only 4 per mille. On the other hand, a rise of 12 per mille was recorded in the Rajshahi Division, while the population of the Dacca Division grew at the rate of 34 per mille and that of the Chittagong Division by no less than 59 per mille.

Year.	Increase or Decrease.
1911 ...	+ 363,607
1912 ...	+ 250,556
1913 ...	+ 198,953
1914 ...	+ 103,992
1915 ...	- 46,939

Birth-rate.

539. The birth-rate, which was more or less stationary in the previous two years, fell in 1915 to 31·80 per mille, or 2·06 per mille less than in 1914. The decline in the number of births, which is attributed to unfavourable economic and climatic conditions, was not universal, the birth-rate continuing to rise in the Chittagong Division.

Death-rate.

540. The total number of deaths recorded exceeded by 57,278 the figure returned in the preceding year. The augmented death-roll is due mainly to an increase of 64,305 deaths from cholera and small-pox and partly to adverse agricultural seasons. A deficiency of rainfall in West Bengal resulted in a partial failure of crops, while floods caused distress in some parts of East Bengal. Taking the province as a whole, however, the people suffered less from abnormally short or heavy rainfall than from an irregular distribution, which caused the agricultural outturn to be below the average in the majority of districts.

Despite the enhanced general mortality, there was a small but gratifying reduction in infantile mortality, the ratio of deaths to births falling from 22·14 to 21·89 per cent.

Verification of vital statistics.

541. Notwithstanding the attention paid to the verification of vital statistics, and the measures taken to ensure accuracy, it is feared that a considerable allowance must still be made for omissions. Enquiries made by the vaccination staff in the case of over 100,000 births and 50,000 deaths led to the discovery of omissions representing, approximately, 2 per cent. in the case of the former and 2·5 per cent. in the case of the latter. Further special enquiries revealed a more serious degree of error in individual districts, and also showed that, in every district but one in which investigation was made, the neglect to register births was far more extensive than the failure to record deaths. As an experimental measure, the presidents of *panchayats* in

selected localities were entrusted with the duty of recording births and deaths in rural areas, and the experiment is reported to have been successful.

Fever.

542. Compared with 1914, the mortality from fever was practically stationary, the number of deaths rising by only 3,118. As in the preceding year the districts which suffered most severely were Birbhum and Murshidabad. Seventy-one per cent. of the total mortality, as against 72 per cent. in the previous year, was registered under this head. In towns the death-rate continues to decline.

Malaria.

543. Anti-malarial measures were continued at the expense of Government and of local authorities, though large schemes were precluded by the financial situation as well as by the reduction of staff caused by the transfer of officers to military duty. Twenty-four Sub-Assistant Surgeons were employed for the gratuitous distribution of quinine for a period of five months from the middle of September, and special malaria surveys were undertaken in various municipal and rural areas. Altogether 115,083 parcels of quinine treatments were issued for sale as compared with 106,964 parcels in the preceding year. Over 6,000 parcels of quinine were supplied for free distribution to the Sub-Assistant Surgeons employed on anti-malarial work, to Civil Surgeons for the use of the vaccination staff, and to school children in the Burdwan Division.

Cholera.

544. Widespread epidemics caused the deaths from cholera to rise from 89,224 to 130,699. Drought in some districts and floods in others appear to have been alike responsible for the prevalence or dissemination of this disease. Few parts of the province were immune from it and the worst sufferers were the districts of Mymensingh and Malda, where the death-rate rose to 5·89 and 5·28 per mille, respectively.

The record of cholera epidemics in towns demonstrates the protection afforded to those which have installed water-works. In the town of Berhampore a serious epidemic broke out, but special investigation showed that not a single case occurred in any house having a connection with the pipe-water supply and that the disease was confined to those who persisted in drinking unfiltered water brought from the river. Statistics of the Hooghly-Chinsura Municipality also show that, during the nine years ending in 1913, the annual mortality from cholera averaged 5·65 per mille, but that in 1914, when water-works were started and a filtered water-supply was given for part of the year, the death-rate was reduced to 2·28 per mille, and that during 1915, when the scheme was in full operation, the death-rate fell to under 1 per mille.

Plague.

545. Plague was almost absent from the Presidency outside Calcutta, the total number of deaths amounting only to 199, of which 191 occurred in Calcutta. This is the lowest figure recorded since the disease first appeared in Bengal.

Dysentery and Diarrhœa.

546. The decline in the mortality noticed last year was maintained, and there were 1,248 less deaths than in 1914.

Emigration.

COLONIAL EMIGRATION.

[The Annual Report on Emigration from the Port of Calcutta to British and Foreign Colonies during the year 1915. Statistics of British India—Part V.—Area, population and public health.]

Effect of the War. (Chief events.)

547. Though emigration which was suspended during the year 1914 was resumed in 1915, the effect of the European War was again marked and shortage of tonnage prevented more than half of the colonial demand being satisfied. Apart from this the chief feature of the year was the discontinuance of recruitment for Surinam and the delegation to the Protector of Emigrants of the power vested in the Local Government to grant licenses to Masters of emigrant vessels.

Emigration Agencies and despatch of emigrants.

548. As in previous years three agencies represented the British colonies, but this year the Dutch Agency for Surinam ceased to work. The demand for labour increased from 5,132½ in 1914 to 5,846 in the year under review,

but owing to the lack of steamers the supply fell from 2,508 to 2,314 of which Fiji secured more than half.

Recruitment of emigrants.

549. The number of licenses issued to recruiters in 1915 was 556, or 87 less than in the year 1914, two-thirds of the decrease being due to the suspension of the Surinam Agency's operations. Sixteen recruiters' licenses, including two granted in 1914, were cancelled during the year, misconduct being the cause in 12 causes against 32 in the previous year. As in 1914, recruiting operations were conducted in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Ajmere, the Central Provinces and the United Provinces, but no emigrants were recruited in the Punjab. The total number of emigrants registered was 5,975, or 830 more than in 1914. The majority (91·40 per cent.) came as usual from the United Provinces, the Basti, Gonda, Gorakhpur and Fyzābad districts supplying the largest numbers. Of the 5,968 emigrants admitted in the sub-depôts and in the central depôt at Benares, 1,858 were rejected on medical examination as unfit to emigrate, and of the rest, 3,151 arrived at the Calcutta depôts. This number was subsequently reduced by rejections, releases and other causes to 2,952, of whom 2,438 were shipped during the year and 514 were left for subsequent despatch.

Sanitary arrangements & in the depots.

550. The sanitary arrangements in the depôts were good. The total number of emigrants admitted to hospital was 336, of whom 5 died as against 230 admissions and 18 deaths in 1914, the mortality among the depôt population showing a satisfactory decrease of ·31 per cent. over the figure for the previous year.

Returned emigrants and their savings.

551. During the year, 1,155 emigrants left the colonies, of whom 112 brought savings amounting in the aggregate to Rs. 2,12,157, the average for each emigrant being Rs. 183 as compared with Rs. 151 in 1914. On the other hand, 1,043 emigrants, including 783 adults, came back without any savings. Remittances from emigrants resident in the colonies showed a general decrease in the case of all the colonies except Mauritius, from which a sum of Rs. 1,55,527 or Rs. 16,315 more than in 1914, was remitted to this country during the year. Natal, however, again remitted the largest sum, despite a fall of Rs. 37,710 as compared with the preceding year, but the amount sent again probably includes remittances from traders as well as labourers.

Disposal of estates of deceased emigrants.

552. One hundred and eighty-nine estates of deceased emigrants, valued at Rs. 13,692 were administered by Government during the year. Of these the heirs of 76 were traced, 65 lapsed to the Indian and Colonial Governments, and the remainder were under enquiry at the end of the year.

Financial.

553. The Emigration accounts closed with a deficit of Rs. 20,116 due to the falling off of receipts from embarkation fees in consequence of the decrease in the number of emigrants shipped.

INLAND EMIGRATION.

[The Reports on Inland Emigration under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901 (VI of 1901), for the year ending the 30th June 1916, submitted by the Superintendent of Emigration, Calcutta, and the District and Assistant Superintendents of Emigration.]

Administrative measures.

554. The important administrative changes noticed in the report for 1914-15 were actually introduced at the beginning of the year under review, the chief of which were the abolition of penal labour contracts and the discontinuance of the system of recruitment by contractors. While seeking to purify the recruitment of labour for Assam by these measures, Government have also done much to encourage and facilitate *bona fide* recruiting operations by garden sardars. Concessions previously allowed only to a few approved associations have now been extended to individual employers who appoint duly licensed local agents to supervise the work of their sardars in the recruiting districts. Instructions have also been issued to local officers to see that the legitimate operations of garden sardars are not unduly interfered with, and that the unnecessary detention of emigrants in transit to the labour districts is avoided as far as possible. In view of the general rise in the price of food-grains, the diet money of repatriated emigrants and their escorts, prescribed in the rules relating to the repatriation of emigrants, has been raised from annas 2 to annas 4 per diem.

Recruitment and recruiting agencies.

555. Recruiting operations were conducted, as in the previous year, by garden sardars in the districts of Burdwan, Bankura, Birbhum, Midnapore, and the 24-Parganas, where 10,876 emigrants were recruited during the year as against 2,011 in the year 1914-15. Of these, 10,579 were engaged by sardars working under the control of local agents, and the remaining 297 by independent garden sardars working under the ordinary procedure of Chapter IV of the Act. The districts of Bankura, Midnapore and Burdwan supplied the largest numbers, viz., 5,940, 3,412, and 1,098, respectively. Seven local agents' licences were granted during the year as compared with 9 granted in the year 1914-15. The work of these agents was generally satisfactory. Two thousand nine hundred and seventy-one garden sardars (including 603 sardarnis) were employed in this Presidency during the year under report, as against 786 garden sardars (including 172 sardarnis) in the previous year. Of these, 23 only worked independently, while the remainder were under the supervision of local agents.

Measures taken to prevent unlawful recruitment.

556. The Magistrate of the 24-Parganas reports that ex-contractors were found to be supplying emigrants to independent sardars working in his district. The certificate of one sardar was cancelled on this account. Other sardars were called on to show cause why their certificates should not be cancelled, but it was found that they had returned to the gardens and had discontinued recruiting. These steps seem to have stopped the practice for the time, but vigilance will still be necessary to prevent its recurrence. The number of criminal cases instituted in this Presidency in connection with recruiting operations decreased during the year to 9 from 24 in the preceding year, the number of persons convicted being 10 as against 22 in the year 1914-15.

Number of emigrants embarked at Goalundo.

557. The number of emigrants of all classes recruited in Madras, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, who embarked at Goalundo during the year under review, was 94,057 as compared with 60,215 in the preceding year. The nearest approach to this number—which is the highest on record—occurred in the year 1907-08, when 81,587 emigrants were despatched. This great increase may be explained partly by high prices due to the war, partly by scarcity in some of the recruiting districts, and partly by the abolition of the labour contract.

Places of accommodation and rest-houses.

558. The places of accommodation and rest-houses for emigrants were properly inspected and maintained in good sanitary condition. The sanitary arrangements on steamers which conveyed emigrants to the labour districts were in accordance with the rules and were generally adequate. Proposals for more up-to-date medical arrangements on those steamers have, however, recently been sanctioned. Among the 93,415 sardari emigrants who arrived at Goalundo, 42 deaths were reported during their transit to that place and 10 deaths after their arrival there; of the remainder, 69,766 embarked for the Assam Valley districts, and 23,503 for Cachar and Sylhet. During the voyage to the Labour districts in the Brahmaputra Valley there were 90 deaths, while there were 2 deaths during the steamer journey to Chandpur.

Repatriation.

559. Thirty-two emigrants were repatriated through Goalundo from the Labour districts, and 89 who refused to embark at that station and 4 who were rejected as physically unfit to labour in a tea estate were also repatriated.

Medical Relief.

CALCUTTA MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

[Report on the working of the Hospitals and Dispensaries in Bengal for the year 1915. Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, population and public health.]

General.

560. The total number of hospitals and dispensaries in the Presidency town decreased from 20 in 1914 to 19 during the year under report. There was a slight falling off in the number of in-patients treated in these institutions, but the total number treated rose from 388,687 to 393,619. The daily average number of in-patients treated in class I, III and IV institutions was 1,467·64 as compared with 1,432·52. Accommodation for 2,143 patients was available in the Calcutta indoor hospitals during the year or 9 more

than in the preceding year. The need for providing more accommodation in the Eye Infirmary increases year by year. A project for the construction of a new Eye Hospital has been approved, but has had to be held in abeyance for financial reasons.

Nursing arrangements.

561. The nursing arrangements at the Calcutta Hospitals have been on the whole satisfactory, and those at the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital have been completely remodelled.

Diseases treated.

562. The outbreak of cholera in the town was the mildest since 1910 and the number of admissions to hospital considerably smaller than in the previous year. Small-pox, on the other hand, prevailed in a severe and epidemic form and at one time it threatened to overtax the accommodation. A temporary hospital was established but fortunately did not have to be utilised. The total number of patients (671) treated was almost double that of the preceding year and the death-rate was 37·25 against 25·44 per cent. in 1914. The mortality from phthisis amongst the general population of the town showed considerable reduction, the number of deaths 1,508 against 1,867 in 1914. The number of *in-patients* treated in the Calcutta hospitals was 673 as compared with 567 and the death-rate 51·11 against 45·50 per cent. The Calcutta institutions had 3,052 intern and 33,309 extern patients suffering from malaria during the year, the corresponding figures for the last year being 2,780 and 29,817.

Finance.

563. The upkeep of the hospitals in classes I, III and IV cost (excluding amounts invested) Rs. 16,08,753 as compared with Rs. 13,86,483 in the preceding year. The increase is mainly due to the expenditure of about 2½ lakhs for the acquisition of land for the proposed new Eye Hospital. During the year Government contributed 1·25 per cent. more than in 1914 towards the income of the hospitals, and subscriptions and donations from the public rose from 1·49 per cent. in 1914 to 3·91 per cent. in 1915.

DISTRICT HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

Number of institutions.

564. There were 37 additions to the list of institutions under this head and 10 exclusions. Out of the number added, 21 were opened by District Boards, 3 were State special, 1 private aided and 1 private non-aided, and 5 railway dispensaries. The total number of dispensaries which remained open at the close of the year was 676 as compared with 649 in the previous year.

Number of patients.

565. The total number of patients treated in the district hospitals and dispensaries, excluding 143,822 patients treated at *hâts* and fairs, etc., was 6,043,638 as against 5,571,324 in the preceding year. The increase was due partly to the increased number and partly to the increased popularity of the institutions and also to the fact that epidemics occurred in several districts during the year.

Diseases treated.

566. In the districts, the total number treated for cholera was 13,499 as compared with 8,155, the increase being due to an extensive outbreak of the disease in the Dacca and Rajshahi Divisions. The death-rate among in-patients of class I, III and IV hospitals was, however, practically the same as that of last year, being 48·95 against 48·15 per cent. in 1914. The prevalence of small-pox in the districts was very great, the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions suffering the most. Attendance in the hospitals for small-pox was 1,114 as compared with 451 in the previous year. The percentage of deaths was 23·38 against 22·45 per cent. in 1914. Phthisis patients treated in the indoor wards numbered 557 against 512 in 1914 and the death-rate was 36·08 against 34·76 per cent. It is satisfactory to note that separate wards have now been provided at almost all district head-quarters hospitals for treatment of phthisical patients. Malaria accounted for the largest number of patients treated and the number of "in" and "out" patients taken together in 1915 exceeded that of the previous year by 305,697.

Finance

567. The receipts and expenditure (excluding investments) amounted to Rs. 13,11,483 and Rs. 11,87,244, respectively, as compared with Rs. 11,22,111 and Rs. 10,66,901 of the previous year. The largest contribution towards

the receipts came from the local funds, which was 38·43 per cent., of the total. Public subscriptions and donations formed 23·66 per cent. municipal contributions 15·07 per cent. and Government contributions 13·91 per cent. The previous year's receipts from the same sources were 36·67, 17·51, 16·91 and 21·36 per cent., respectively.

Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling.

[From the Report on the Eden Sanitarium and Hospital for the year 1915.]

568. The total number of admissions was practically the same as in 1914 being 607 as against 606. The number of persons admitted to the several classes, viz., first, intermediate, second and third was 66,101,273 and 167, respectively, as compared with 69,97,296 and 144 during the previous year. The number of patients treated in the hospital increased from 183 in 1914 to 271 in the year under report. Eighteen patients were treated in the free beds during the year as against 15 in 1914. Admission.

569. The receipts of the Institution rose from Rs. 31,502 in 1914 to Rs. 38,953 in 1915. The revised rates payable by visitors were primarily responsible for this financial improvement. After deducting Rs. 2,407 on account of depreciation on furniture the net profit for the year was Rs. 4,648. Finance.

The Darjeeling Municipality has enhanced the amount of its annual grant to the Sanitarium from Rs. 150 to Rs. 1,000 and the Darjeeling Improvement Fund is also subsidising the funds of the Institution by Rs. 1,000 a year.

Lunatic Asylums.

[Annual Returns of the Lunatic Asylums in Bengal for the year 1915. Statistics of British India, Part V.—Area, population and public health.]

570. Two hundred and thirteen lunatics, of whom 101 were criminal lunatics and 13 were cases of re-admission were received in the asylums in Bengal during the year, as compared with 195 in 1914. The number discharged was 98 against 99 in 1914. The asylum population rose from 1,262 in 1914 to the record number 1,285 during 1915, the daily average strength being also considerably higher. This ever-growing population is a serious tax on the capacity of the lunatic asylums in Bengal, but additional accommodation has been provided in the Berhampore and Dacca asylums, and it is hoped that this will tide over the present demand till the new Central Asylum at Ranchi is opened. Owing to the war the construction of the Lunatic Asylum for Indian patients at Ranchi, to which the sanction of the Secretary of State has been received, and the completion of the European Asylum had to be postponed. Admission, Discharge, Population and Accommodation.

571. The health of the inmates was on the whole satisfactory, there being no outbreak of epidemic disease in any asylum. In the three asylums the daily average of sick fell from 107·10 to 84·38 and the death-rate from 8·51 per cent. of the daily average strength to 7·81 in 1915. It is noticeable that after Bombay, Bengal has the lowest death-rate among lunatics in India. Health of Lunatics.

The gross expenditure of the lunatic asylums amounted to Rs. 2,14,118 against Rs. 1,97,828 in 1914. After deduction from this figure of the fees realized from paying patients, the value of articles received from the manufacturing department and that of manufactured articles sold to the public, the net cost on account of maintenance of the lunatic asylums amounted to Rs. 1,78,754 as compared with Rs. 1,62,097 in 1914. The average cost per head of pauper lunatics per annum, Public Works charges being omitted from the calculation, was Rs. 153-7-6 against Rs. 145-1-10 in the preceding year, the general rise in prices being mainly responsible for the increase.

Sanitation.

[Reports of the Sanitary Board, Bengal, and the Sanitary Engineer, Bengal, for the year 1915.]

Sanitary Board.

572. As in the preceding year, the Board held nine meetings. Five sketch projects estimated to cost Rs. 7,10,592 and six detailed schemes estimated to cost Rs. 6,58,795 were forwarded to Government for sanction. A detailed scheme prepared by the Sanitary Engineer for the supply of filtered water to the riparian municipalities to the north of Calcutta was, on the recommendation of the Sanitary Board, placed before a small Committee representing the local authorities concerned.

SANITARY WORKS.

Sanitary Works.

573. Works costing altogether Rs. 22,92,429 were carried out during 1914-15 by Government, Municipalities, District Boards and private individuals; the expenditure was nearly Rs. 5¾ lakhs in excess of that incurred during the previous year. The amount distributed by Government was Rs. 5,11,026, of which Rs. 3,21,779 was for non-recurring expenditure. There was considerable activity on the part of District and Local Boards in rural sanitary works, such as well-sinking, jungle-clearing, filling up of ditches and excavation and cleaning of tanks.

Sanitary improvements.

574. Owing to the necessity for retrenchment, there was an inevitable decrease in the total expenditure on sanitary engineering works, which amounted to Rs. 7,30,390 as against Rs. 9,64,571 during the previous year, the greater part of the expenditure being as before devoted to water-supply. Altogether 37·18 per cent. of the total receipts was spent on sanitary works as against 40·15 in the previous year. No grant or loan was given from provincial revenues towards new works except in cases of the greatest urgency. At the same time, the rise in the prices of materials, especially iron work and machinery, rendered it necessary to postpone schemes which but for the war would in all probability have been initiated or under construction. Drainage schemes were completed at Kurseong, Baruipur and Kushtea; progress was made with drainage schemes for Burdwan, Katwa and Bhadreswar; and the water-works schemes for Bankura and Chittagong were nearly completed.

Vaccination.

[Annual Statistical Returns and Short Notes on Vaccination in Bengal for the year 1915-16. Statistics of British India—Part V.—Area, population and public health.]

Vaccination.

575. The number of persons vaccinated during the year 1915-16 was 1,635,621 or 35,259 more than in 1914-15. Operations decreased in Calcutta by 80,898. Steps have been taken to remedy the unsatisfactory state of vaccination in Eastern Bengal districts. Free vaccination was introduced in the Sadar subdivision of the Bakarganj district, and the results were satisfactory, a large number of vaccinations being performed in places where vaccination was hitherto unknown. A similar system was also introduced in the 24-Parganas, where the District Board appointed a special staff to carry on free vaccination in rural areas. The people welcomed the opportunity of free vaccination, and a large increase of primary vaccinations resulted.

Small-pox.

576. The deaths from small-pox increased threefold, aggregating 32,785 or ·72 per mille; this is the highest figure on record since 1909. More than three-fourths of the deaths occurred in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions. Despite the general increase of mortality, the death-rate among infants continued to decline, and only 14 per cent. of the total mortality from small-pox occurred among children under 10 years of age compared with 21·5 per cent. in 1914.

The Poisons Act.

[Report on the working of the Poisons Act, I of 1904, during the year 1915.]

Working of the Poisons Act.

577. In pursuance of further instructions issued by Government during the year 1915 vigorous steps were taken by the Magistrates of Malda, Dacca and of the districts in the Burdwan Division (except Howrah) to make the provisions of the law known to the public. The total number of licenses issued during the year throughout the Presidency, including Calcutta, was 160 under section 2 and 191 under section 4, as compared with 166 and 282 in 1914 and 142 and 236 in 1913, respectively. In Calcutta the total number of licenses granted under both the sections fell from 106 in 1914 to 99 in 1915. In Calcutta there were two prosecutions under the Act both of which ended in conviction. In the districts there were 10 prosecutions during the year, all of which ended in conviction. No serious irregularities were brought to light during the year, and the working of the Act continued to be generally satisfactory.

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

General System of Public Instruction.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1911-12, PART II. PAGES 264—273.

Education.

[Report on Public Instruction for 1915-16: Statistics of British India, Part VII—Educational.]

Financial.

578. Notwithstanding unfavourable financial conditions, there was a further increase of expenditure on education and a resultant expansion of educational work, and there was a larger number of schools and scholars, both male and female, than in any previous year. New capital expenditure practically ceased, as the Government of India were not in a position to permit drafts upon the unexpended balance of non-recurring Imperial grants, but the recurring grants were made available in full, subject to the condition, which also governed non-recurring charges, that no new expenditure should be incurred unless likely to prove immediately remunerative or of imperative and immediate necessity. The number of educational institutions rose by a little over 2,000, aggregating 46,770. The number of male pupils was 1,559,728 and of female pupils 284,813, representing an increase of approximately 24,000 and 20,000, respectively.

Administrative Staff.

579. Four members of the Indian Educational Service were permitted to join the Indian Army Reserve of Officers. Since the close of the year practically all the junior members of the service have volunteered, and as many as could be spared have been allowed to join.

Collegiate Education.

580. The number of colleges was reduced by the abolition of the Arts Departments of the London Missionary Society Institution at Bhowanipore and of the Bishop's College at Calcutta, but the number of students increased from 15,921 to 17,226. There were serious breaches of discipline in the Presidency College, including a strike, in which many of the students participated, and an organized assault on one of the European Professors. In view of these disgraceful incidents the college was closed from the 18th February 1916 to the end of the summer vacation, and a committee was appointed to inquire into the general state of discipline in the college; its report has since been published. Not the least regrettable feature of these incidents was that a representative committee of students, elected by their fellow-students to serve as an intermediary between them and the Principal, who were expected to show a sense of responsibility and to co-operate in the maintenance of authority, either passively acquiesced in or actively promoted indiscipline, with the result that the committee had eventually to be abolished.

Secondary Education.

581. The extent to which secondary education has spread in Bengal is apparent from the fact that it contains as many secondary schools as Madras, Bombay, the Punjab, Bihar and Orissa and the United Provinces taken together. In spite of the disappearance of 31 middle vernacular schools, a class of school which has for a long time past been unable to compete with the middle English schools, there was a further addition to the number of secondary schools during the year under review, while at its close the total number of pupils in these schools amounted to 372,026. High schools alone increased from 588 to 616 and the attendance in them rose to 197,530. The Director of Public Instruction has drawn attention to the fact that the general condition of secondary education is still bad and that high schools, in particular, are in need of considerable improvement. The teachers are mostly ill-paid and discontented, the buildings are generally overcrowded, the standards

of education and discipline are low, and it has to be admitted that the Government schools are little, if at all, above the level of the better class of aided schools. The content of the people with the present system leading up to the Matriculation Examination, success in which is a passport to Government service and a valuable asset in the marriage market; their disinclination to pay any part of the increased cost of a higher type of education; and the inability of Government, with its limited resources and growing burdens, to introduce a reformed system without their assistance, are all difficulties in the way of improving the present unsatisfactory state of secondary education.

A residential school was opened at Hastings House in Calcutta for the education, on English public school lines, of the sons of those who are willing to pay substantial fees. It had 37 pupils on its rolls at the close of the year and is reported to have done good work. A scheme for systematic instruction in woodwork, which is an important factor in hand and eye training, has been tentatively introduced in selected high schools; the boys have taken to the work with general keenness.

Primary Education.

582. There was an addition of 3,285 in the number of primary schools, and an increase of 77,415 pupils brought the attendance up to 1,124,109. Progress was most noticeable in Eastern Bengal, which is at present a good deal more advanced than West Bengal in all branches of primary education. A decrease in the number of upper primary schools is due to the ever-growing demand for education in English and the consequent unpopularity of a purely vernacular course of instruction. In the case of lower primary schools there was an increase both in number and in attendance, but part of the increase is due to the fact that secularised *maktabs* in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions, which were formerly shewn as special schools, have now been returned as primary schools. Of the total expenditure on primary education 43·7 per cent. is drawn from public funds, while 56·3 per cent. is derived from private sources. The Imperial grants for primary education have made it possible to introduce various measures of practical reform, the chief among which are the enhancement of the pay of teachers in aided primary schools, the grant of subsidies for the maintenance of Board primary schools and the improvement of guru-training schools. These reforms have been introduced throughout the Province, while a grant allotted to Eastern Bengal has been utilized for the encouragement of female and Muhammadan education in that part of the Presidency. A real improvement is already noticeable. In the Board lower primary schools good work is being done and the pandits are reported to be reasonably prosperous and contented, while the work in guru-training schools is being carried on with a new thoroughness and vigour.

Training of Teachers.

583. There were 3 colleges for the training of secondary school teachers, 6 normal schools for vernacular masters, 116 schools for the training of primary school teachers and 4 special training classes. The David Hare Training College at Calcutta and the Dacca Training College are maintained by Government and teach up to the Bachelor of Teaching and Licentiate in Teaching standards of the Calcutta University. Both institutions were maintained in a satisfactory state of efficiency and it is hoped that the teachers trained at these colleges will gradually leaven the low standard of teaching in secondary schools. Their work is, however, confined in the main to the training of teachers already in Government service, and the extension of their influence to the teachers in private schools is hampered by the lack of funds for the provision of stipends. Besides these Government institutions, there is only one small training school for secondary teachers, viz., the London Missionary Society Training class at Bhowanipore, which is aided by the department and had 13 students on its rolls. Five normal schools are maintained by Government at which teachers are trained for vernacular schools and for the vernacular departments of high schools; there is also an aided school at Krishnagar, which is maintained by the Church Missionary Society for the benefit of the mission schools. There were altogether 445 students in the normal schools, of whom only 95 passed out with final certificates. Government maintains 113 guru-training schools, including six which are reserved for the training of *mianjis* or teachers in *maktabs*, while three schools are maintained by missionary bodies. There were 1,952

gurus under training, of whom 906 were successful at the final certificate examination. A scheme for the improvement of the guru-training schools on the lines approved for the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam is now under the consideration of Government. The object of the scheme is to arrange for the training of a larger number of students every year and to render the career of primary school teachers more atractive.

Education of Indian girls and women.

584. There was a satisfactory feature of the year's record in the further expansion of education among Indian girls and women. There was an addition of 640 *girls'* schools, while the increase of 17,242 scholars recorded in 1914-15 has been followed by a further increase of 20,711. The growing interest taken by Muhammadans in the education of their women is evinced by the fact that they contributed 12,592 to this last increase. There were two women colleges, the Bethune College at Calcutta, which did well at the B. A. and I. A. examinations and was affiliated in Mathematics up to the Intermediate Standard, and the Diocesan College, which teaches up to the B. A. and B. T. degrees and had 43 girls on the rolls. This College continues to maintain a high standard of efficiency. The number of secondary schools was 63, viz., 14 high schools and 49 middle schools; of the latter 28 are middle vernacular schools, which are little better than primary schools. The great majority of the girls' schools are poorly housed private institutions, which receive small grants or stipends from District Boards and Municipalities. The chief needs of female education are reported to be better buildings for the schools, suitable quarters for the mistresses, the substitution of adequately paid mistresses for the old pandits now employed and the provision of mistresses who have been trained in methods of teaching. Owing to financial restrictions it has been impossible to do much to supply these needs. Building projects had to be suspended; a scheme for the establishment of a secondary training college for women, which should have been opened during the year, had to be kept in abeyance; and the initiation of a Training class for Muhammadan female teachers, which is one of the most urgent requirements of Muhammadan female education, had to be postponed. At present, the only Secondary Training class for Indian female teachers is that attached to the Diocesan College, which was opened three years ago. Primary training classes, except those maintained by Government at Calcutta and Dacca, are all managed by missionary bodies. At Dacca 22 pupils were under training; in Calcutta there is a Training class for Hindu widows, which is doing good work. In addition to the ordinary types of schools recognised by the Department, such as high, middle and primary schools, there are zenana classes and home schools for girls which are assisted by grants and are conducted by elderly zenana ladies in their own homes. The home schools started in Eastern Bengal in accordance with the recommendations of the Female Education Committee of Eastern Bengal and Assam are doing satisfactory work. Two new schemes for zenana work were sanctioned for Pabna and Rangpur, and six classes were opened at the latter place. Lace-making, drawn thread-work and embroidery are taught in nine industrial schools, and peripatetic teachers have been appointed to tour from place to place and give instruction in needle-work in Primary schools. It is an encouraging feature of female education in Bengal that the *bhadralok* or middle classes are recognising that the education of their girls up to a certain standard is a practical necessity, and though they prefer, if possible, to get them educated free of charge, they are so impressed with its advantages that they are ready to pay a reasonable rate of fees.

Education of Europeans.

585. There were 78 institutions, of which 59 were schools for general and 19 for special instruction; the total number of European and Anglo-Indian pupils at the close of the year was 9,662. There was an improvement in the standard of teaching in some schools, but the great majority of teachers were untrained; out of 499 teachers, only 43 were graduates and 185 had received pedagogic training. There is no training institution in Bengal for male teachers; one such teacher was deputed to Sanawar, but gave up the course to join the Army. The Dow Hill Training Class, which had 14 students under training, is the only recognised institution for women teachers. Instruction in manual training was given in eight schools and

vocational training in 11 schools. The Young Women's Christian Association at Calcutta continued to do good work in its commercial and training classes, which were attended by 934 students, who learnt shorthand, typewriting, cookery, dress-making, millinery, first aid to the injured, home-nursing, household management, physical training, stencilling and painting, Hindustani and French. The Association also holds a special class in needle-work and cutting-out for the women teachers of European schools in Calcutta. Domestic training was given to girls in St. Helen's Convent at Kurseong, St. Andrew's Colonial Homes at Kalimpong, and some higher elementary schools; and an up-to-date domestic science school was opened at Kalimpong. Cadet corps were maintained in 16 schools, the number on the muster-rolls being 1,465. Most of the boys' secondary schools deputed one member or more of their staff for military service.

Education of Muhammadans.

586. The number of Muhammadan pupils increased from 803,589 to 824,250, and it is noticeable that there is now one Muhammadan girl at school to every five Muhammadan boys. Even with this increase, however, the percentage of Muhammadans under instruction (44·9 per cent.) is below their proportionate strength (52·7 per cent.) in the population of Bengal. Only 1,535 Muhammadans are students in colleges, where they are outnumbered tenfold by the Hindus. On the other hand, though they have hitherto been slow in entering technical and industrial schools in spite of the mechanical ability, a larger number took advantage of the opportunities for a technical education afforded by engineering, surveying and industrial schools. The reformed Madrassah scheme, which aims at bringing a specifically Islamic education into line with the requirements of the times, was brought into operation during the year and has now been introduced in the Government Madrassahs, aided senior Madrassahs, and recognised junior Madrassahs. In order to provide facilities for the education of Muhammadan boys, it has been decided that Government Madrassahs should be maintained entirely at the cost of Government, and that the amount previously spent on their upkeep from the Mohsin Fund should be devoted to the award of 124 special stipends to Muhammadan pupils.

Education of Special Classes.

587. During the year under review a scheme was sanctioned for the improvement and expansion of education among the Sonthal inhabitants of Bankura, Birbhum and Midnapore. Nine new schools were opened in Jalpaiguri for the education of the children of labourers employed in tea gardens, and a special grant was made for the establishment of 30 new schools in the same district. A scheme has also been approved for the education of the children of labourers working in the mills along the river Hooghly.

Hostels.

588. The number of hostels and boarding houses increased from 660 to 735, the number of boarders being 23,545, or 1·3 per cent. of the college and school enrolment. The scale of allowances sanctioned for Superintendents of hostels attached to Government schools and colleges in the western districts of the Presidency was extended to Eastern Bengal. One of the most urgent reforms required in connection with collegiate education is the provision of suitable hostels under proper supervision, but this is a reform which does not appear to appeal with much force as yet to the Indian public. It seems to be thought, in some quarters, that, so long as students behave well in the class-rooms, it is no concern of the collegiate authorities to see where and how they live. The burden of providing hostels for private colleges has hitherto been borne largely by Government, who have received liberal subventions for this purpose from the Government of India. During the year under review a sum of 9¼ lakhs was paid to the Calcutta University out of a grant of 10 lakhs given by that Government for the construction of hostels for undergraduates of private colleges in Calcutta. Two lakhs were also spent on the construction of a building for the Calcutta University Institute which is doing useful work among students.

Physical training.

589. A Committee was appointed to conduct an enquiry into the hygienic conditions of schools and colleges and to devise a comprehensive scheme of improvement. Their recommendations, which involve considerable expenditure, have been submitted to the Government of India. The Adviser on Physical Education inspected a number of colleges, schools and hostels and

found a decided change for the better in the hygienic and sanitary arrangements of most of them.

Discipline.

590. Open breaches of discipline were few, but the standard of discipline is low. Several students were interned under the Defence of India Act and there is reason to believe that many colleges and schools are being persistently exploited by anarchist organisations.

Literature and the Press.

[Statistics of British India, Part VII.—Educational].

Bengal Library and working of Act XXV of 1867.

591. The number of publications registered during the year was 3,910, viz., 2,562 books and 1,348 issues of periodicals. Of the books, 2,265 were original publications, the rest being republications or translations. The issues of periodicals represented 184 separate publications, of which 54 were in English and 91 in Bengali: the remainder were in other languages. In the preceding year, there were 178 periodicals, of which 101 were in Bengali. Forty-five periodicals ceased to appear during the year under review. Forty-one new ones were started and 10 defunct ones were revived. There were 53 cases of evasion of the law of book registration during the year.

Literary publications.

592. While there was a slight decrease during the year in the number of literary productions as a whole, there was a marked increase in the output of literature in works of biography, drama, fiction and history. The few publications on art were generally poor in quality, the only work deserving of special notice being "South Indian Bronzes" by O. C. Ganguly, Honorary Secretary of the Indian Society of Oriental Arts, Calcutta. Works of fiction were more numerous than in the preceding year. The best novel was "Didi" a pathetic domestic story by Nirupama Devi. There was a marked improvement in historical literature, and several valuable books dealing with the early history of Bengal were published during the year. Among biographies the most interesting work was the third volume of the life of the Swami Vivekananda and the best of the historical dramas was Sinhal Vijay (Conquest of Ceylon) by D. L. Roy. Translations and adaptations from foreign sources were a notable feature of the year and some of these were of considerable literary value. A work deserving of special mention is a literal English translation of Kalidas's famous Sanskrit drama "Abhijnana Shakuntalam" by Mr. Roby Datta. There was a slight falling-off in the quantity of religious literature, the Hindu portion of which indicates a revival of Vedantism and Vaishnavism. The poetical literature consisted almost entirely of lyrical poems and collections of short poems. Sir Rabindra Nath Tagore's mystic vein found many imitators.

The Press and the working of the Indian Press Act.

593. The total number of newspapers and periodicals, both English and vernacular, published in Bengal during the year was 382 of which 255 were published in the town of Calcutta. Fifty-eight new periodicals and newspapers started publication during the year, 61 old papers ceased to exist and 2 defunct ones were revived. Of these publications, 203 were written in Bengali, 121 in English, 12 in Hindi and the rest in Urdu, Assamese and other languages.

A noteworthy feature of the year was a fall in the circulation of some of the most widely-read papers, including the *Statesman*, *Englishman*, *Hitabadi* and *Indian Daily News*. This is attributed to the starting of two new vernacular newspapers which published very full war news and to a reduction in the price of the *Bengalee*. Except for an occasional tendency to belittle the successes of the Allies and to question the completeness of the information given in Reuter's telegrams, the references in the Press to the war were, on the whole, unexceptionable. No prosecution under the Indian Naval and Military (Emergency) Ordinance of 1914 was instituted. A few indiscretions and cases of the publication of news from enemy sources were sufficiently met by warnings from the Press Censors which were received in good part. Twelve leaflets and 3 books, mostly Urdu, were forfeited and security was demanded from 2 newspapers and 1 journal and 8 printing presses under the Indian Press Act. Warnings were issued to 3 newspapers.

Topics discussed in the Press.

594. The war was the chief topic discussed in the Press and evoked in nearly all papers repeated expressions of loyalty to the British Empire and of a desire to assist and to refrain from embarrassing Government. The demand for the formation of a Bengali Volunteer Corps was strongly reiterated in most of the Indian papers and the hope that the end of the war would be accompanied by liberal Political concessions was frequently expressed. The continuance of revolutionary crime called forth admissions from the moderate papers that repressive measures were really necessary, but the working of the Defence of India Rules was adversely criticised, mainly on the ground that they did not afford the same opportunities for defence and explanation on the part of the accused persons as the similar war legislation which is in force in England. The appointment of Special Commissions for the trial of certain offences was objected to as a retrograde measure, but the constitution of the Commissions, and especially the selection of Indian gentlemen to serve as Commissioners, were generally approved.

Literary Societies.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1911-12, PART II, PAGES 278—279.

Arts and Sciences.

Government School of Art, Calcutta.

595. The number of students on the rolls of the school on the 31st March 1916 was 276, as against 284 on the 31st March 1915. Of these, 20 were studying lithography and 4 wood-engraving. During the year 26 *ex*-students obtained remunerative employment. In the attached hostel there were 33 boarders. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 33,655 during the year as compared with Rs. 46,017 in 1914-15.

Government Art Gallery, Calcutta.

596. A brass figure of Vishnu, with two female consorts, which was discovered embedded in the sub-soil of an old tank in the compound of the ruined palace at Birat in the Rangpur District and is said to date from the end of the 13th or the beginning of the 14th Century A.D., was presented by His Excellency the Governor of Bengal in Council through the Trustees of the Indian Museum. His Excellency Lord Carmichael has also lent a valuable and interesting collection of jewellery and other objects of art. This collection comprises a comprehensive series of personal ornaments from Tibet, Sikkim and Nepal, and an interesting group of adornments of some of the people of Bengal and Madras, a set of ornamental charms from Mymensingh, and a very fine display of Southern India metal work. The collection of Indian paintings which was kept in the south room of the first floor has been transferred during the year to the large upper storey of the new wing. The construction of cases for the exhibition of metal statuary of Nepal, Tibet and Southern India in the south room of the first floor is also completed.

Other Schools of Art.

597. There were 3 other Schools of Art—all in Calcutta. Of these, 1 was aided and the rest unaided. These schools had 342 students on the 31st March 1916.

Music Schools.

598. There were 3 Music Schools in the Bankura District against 2 in the previous year. The Music School at Bishnupur ceased to exist during the year, but 2 new schools, 1 at Maliara and the other at Barjora, sprang up. The total expenditure on all the schools was Rs. 467, the whole of which was met from private sources. On the 31st March 1916 there were 37 students in all the schools.

Civil Engineering College, Sibpur.

599. In the Engineer Department the total number of students was 74 against 92 in the previous year. Twenty-six students were admitted during the year. The total admissions in the Apprentice Department numbered 72. Of the 175 students attending this Department, 135 were Hindus, 3 Muhammadans and 37 Christians. In the Electrical and Mechanical Branch there were 25 students. Of the 9 candidates who secured First Class Colliery

Managers' Certificates at the last examination, 6 came from this College. The value of the work turned out in the workshops amounted to Rs. 29,661. The Industrial Classes for training artizans had an average attendance of 31. Five artizans left during the year; their total earnings amounted to Rs. 1,235. In the Department of Tinctorial Chemistry there were 3 regular students in the 2nd year class, but none in the first year. These classes have proved a failure and Government have ordered them to be closed. The total expenditure on the College during the year was Rs. 221, 302, of which Rs. 192,432 came from public funds.

Dacca School of Engineering.

600. There were 133 students in the Apprentice Department. The Mechanical and Electrical Branch was closed in accordance with the orders of Government. The number of artizans under training has risen to 65. The total value of the work turned out from the workshops was Rs. 2.226 for outside work and Rs. 5,775 for improvement of the school and the workshop itself.

Mining instruction in the coal-fields.

601. During the year under review the Mining Educational Advisory Board was reconstituted and its sphere of interest enlarged, so as to include all mining education in Bengal. The Mining classes of the Sibpur College, which were formerly outside the Board's sphere of action, were included within it. Subsequently Mr. H. C. Read was appointed sole lecturer for all the centres for evening classes in Bengal and Bihar. In the sessional examination held in June 1915, 18 candidates passed, as against 16 in the previous year. A sum not exceeding Rs. 200 per mensem has been sanctioned by Government for special mining scholarships of Rs. 50 for Europeans and Rs. 25 for Indians, tenable at the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur, these scholarships to be awarded on the results of the examination held annually in connexion with the local lectures in the coal-fields. The question of the preparation of Bengali manuals on mining and mine-surveying is now under the consideration of Government.

Pleaders' Survey Examination.

602. During the year under review there were 24 students in the short training class at Sibpur and 14 at Dacca. At the examination held in February 1916, 8 candidates passed out of 30.

Survey Education.

603. The report of the special Committee appointed to consider the question in general is still under the consideration of Government.

Joint Technical Examination Board.

604. At the Overseer Examination, 61 candidates passed out of 98 actually appearing at the examination or 62·2 per cent., and at the Sub-Overseer Examination 96 passed out of 151 actually appearing or 63·5 per cent. In 1915 these percentages were, respectively, 77·1 and 55·9. The total number of admissions to the Sub-Overseer classes has increased from 274 to 332. These figures include candidates from Bihar and Orissa.

City and Guilds of London Institute, Technological Examinations.

605. The examinations were held at Serampore and Calcutta. Forty-two candidates in textile subjects appeared at the Serampore centre and 30 in the non-textile subjects appeared at the Calcutta centre. Twenty-three candidates passed in textile subjects and 7 in non-textile.

Government Weaving Institute, Serampore, and outlying centres.

606. This Institute has passed its experimental stage and shows promise of development. There is a steady increase in the number of applications for admissions both to the higher and to the artizan classes. New admissions to the higher class during the year numbered 21 and to the artizan class 54. The total cost for the Institute during the year was Rs. 25,740. At the Malda Weaving School the expenditure from Provincial revenues for the year was Rs. 1,382, at Cox's Bazar Rs. 1,422, at Bankura Rs. 1,454, and at Pabna Rs. 1,230. The average number of pupils in these outlying schools was 15, 10, 18 and 20, respectively.

Schools for Juvenile Offenders.

607. Mr. J. H. Melville, who was formerly an Inspector of Industrial and Reformatory Schools, under the Home Office in London, came to Bengal on deputation for three months from the Government of Madras in connexion with the whole question of juvenile offenders. He visited a number of institutions in the Presidency with a view to seeing what could be done towards providing suitable training for juvenile offenders. It was found that some modifications in the draft Children's Bill were necessary before a satisfactory scheme could be worked out. Mr. Melville has drafted a new Children's Bill on the lines of the Madras Children's Bill. It is now under the consideration of Government.

608. The total strength of the day and evening classes at the beginning of the session was 230, but it fell subsequently to 116, the decline being mainly in the evening class students. The Commercial Course Advisory and Examination Board, which was merely an Advisory Board, has been replaced by the Government Commercial Institute Board, which has certain defined executive powers. An Accountancy and Auditing class was opened in the middle of July 1915, and draft rules for the Diploma examination in Accountancy are now under the consideration of the Department. During the year 87 pupils joined the day classes and 143 the evening classes. At the final examination of the Institute held in 1916, 9 candidates passed out of 22, and at the special examinations 14 passed out of 30. The total expenditure for the year was Rs. 21,192. Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta.

609. At the School Final Examination of "B" Classes held in 1916, 44 candidates appeared and 21 passed. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 29 and 13 respectively. These figures include candidates from Bihar and Orissa. "B" Classes.

CHAPTER VIII.—ARCHÆOLOGY.

Archæology.

[Annual Report of the Archæological Survey of India, Eastern Circle for 1915-16].

Establishment.

610. The Superintendent, Archæological Survey, Eastern Circle, has been entrusted with the duties of the Assistant Superintendent in addition to his own duties owing to the absence of the Assistant Superintendent on leave and subsequently on deputation to military duty.

Monuments and Antiquities.

611. Conservation work was mainly of a petty nature, the total amount spent on it was Rs. 11,514. Special repairs to the Hussani Dalan at Dacca and certain monuments at Gaur and Pandua were carried out at total cost of Rs. 1,828 and 973, respectively. Special repairs to the tombs of Kutubuddin, Sher Afghan and Bahram Sakka at Burdwan, the Gunmunt mosque in the district of Malda and the Dargah of Shah Ismail Ghazi at Baradanga in the district of Rangpur were also completed. Special repairs to the Satgambuz mosque near Bagerhat, to Khan Jahan Ali's tomb at Masjidkur in the district of Khulna, to the Jatar Deul Temple in the Sundarbans (24-Parganas) and to the Chika mosque at Gaur, are still in progress.

Seventeen *notifications* were published declaring ancient monuments of historical or archæological interest to be protected monuments under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act VII of 1904. In two cases agreements under section 5 of this Act were made between the Secretary of State and the owners of the monuments.

Working of the Treasure Trove Act VI of 1878.

612. Finds of coins were reported from Kaliganj and Bara-Rajapur both in the district of Khulna. A large number of these coins were found after expert examination to be rare specimens, and they were acquired and distributed among certain museums under the Treasure Trove Act, VI of 1878.

A metal image of Vishnu was found imbedded in the subsoil of an old tank in the compound of a ruined palace at Birat in the Rangpur district. The image was subsequently presented to the Art section of the Indian Museum.

CHAPTER IX —MISCELLANEOUS.

Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1911-12. PART II, PAGE 282.

Ecclesiastical.

Establishment.

613. The Ecclesiastical establishment in Bengal during the year, paid entirely or in part by Government, consisted of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, the Archdeacon of Calcutta, the Domestic Chaplain to the Bishop, the Registrar of the Diocese, 11 Chaplains of the Church of England, 2 Chaplains of the Church of Scotland, 8 Clergymen of the Additional Clergy or other Societies, the Most Reverend Archbishop Dr. Brice Meuleman, S. J., and 4 priests of the Roman Catholic Church.

Chemical Examiner's Department.

[Report of the Chemical Examiner for the year 1915. Statistics of British India, Part VI.—Administrative and Judicial.]

General.

614. Lieutenant-Colonel F. N. Windsor, I.M.S., held charge of the Department till the 27th April, 1915, when he was deputed to military duty and succeeded by Rai Chuni Lal Bose Bahadur, First Assistant Chemical Examiner who held charge of the Department during the rest of the year.

Serology.

615. Lieutenant-Colonel W. D. Sutherland, I.M.S., whose appointment as Imperial Serologist was experimentally sanctioned by the Secretary of State for a period of two years from the 1st March, 1914 carried on his special work in connection with the examination of bloodstained exhibits in medico-legal cases during the year. Over 1,400 cases were sent to him in 1915 for investigation as compared with 1,192 in 1914 and 643 in 1913. Of these, 699 were received from Bengal, 458 from Madras, 454 from the United Provinces, 447 from Bihar and Orissa, 426 from Burma and 292 from Bombay, while the Native States contributed 35.

Total of cases.

616. The total number of analyses performed in the General Analytical Department during the year was 9,225 as compared with 4,936 in 1914. The increase is principally due to the large number of cocaine references received from the various Excise Officers, the Commissioner of Police and the Presidency Magistrates, Calcutta.

Medico-legal cases.

617. In the Medico-legal Department 1,792 cases were investigated as against 1,848 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 56 cases, due to a considerable diminution in the number of human poisoning cases. The total number of articles examined rose from 3,161 in the previous year to 3,243. The total number of specimens of viscera examined in suspected human poisoning cases was 794 as compared with 896 in 1914, but the percentage of detection rose from 45·78 to 47·76. As usual, opium was the most common form of poison detected. In animal poisoning cases, of which 24 more were received than in the previous year, the percentage of detection rose from 64·59 to 67·47.

Veterinary Department.

[Report of the Veterinary College and of the Civil Veterinary Department, Bengal, for the year 1915-16.]

Bengal Veterinary College.

618. The number of students on the rolls of the Bengal Veterinary College at the beginning of the session was 147, but the actual number at the end of the session was 139, of whom 51 came from Bengal, 42 from Bihar and

Orissa, 19 from Assam, 10 from the United Provinces, 7 from Madras and 6 from Burma. One hundred and thirty-two students appeared at the examination and 94 passed. Nineteen students graduated from the College and the percentage of passes was 67·85. During the year 30 students were sent to the College by the Sanitary Commissioner of Bengal to attend a course of lectures on infectious diseases of cattle.

The second Imperial officer sanctioned for the College has not yet been recruited. Mr. S. N. Mitra, one of the lecturers of the College, died during the year, and in May 1916, Mr. Brand met with a fatal accident while playing polo. Both of these officers possessed great ability and by their death the College has suffered a very serious loss.

College Hospital.

619. During the year 2,810 cases were treated and 1,246 operations were performed at the College hospital. The number of animals sent to the the hospital for treatment in connection with cases under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act during the year was only 523, although 4,879 prosecutions were instituted under the Act. The report submitted by the Committee appointed to consider whether any improvement was possible in the law of cruelty to animals and its administration is under the consideration of Government.

Glanders and Farcy Act.

620. In Calcutta and its neighbourhood all the stables within the area under the Glanders and Farcy Act were frequently inspected during the year, and Glanders was detected in 5 stables. Four stables were also found infected with *surra*. In the mufassal Glanders was confined to two districts, viz., Bakarganj and Dacca, and there were only 9 deaths. The number of deaths in the Sodepur Pinjrapole was 71. There were severe outbreaks of *surra* in the districts of Khulna and Tippera. All possible measures for its suppression were taken by the staff of the Department.

Raymond Research Laboratory.

621. The Raymond Research Laboratory continued to do valuable work especially with reference to the diagnosis of infectious diseases. Experiments were made with auto-vaccine prepared in the Laboratory in the treatment of Mammitis, which disease is not infrequent in Bengal.

Civil Veterinary Department.

622. There was a considerable decrease in the mortality of animals from contagious diseases during the year, the total number of deaths reported being 10,725, as against 15,950 in 1914-15. The number of deaths amongst bovines from rinderpest fell from 13,662 in 1914-15 to 8,893. Good results were obtained from preventive inoculation conducted by the department. There were 284 outbreaks of rinderpest in the area outside Calcutta and its suburbs, resulting in the death of 3,351 uninoculated animals, while out of 38,950 inoculated animals only 364, or a little over 0·9 per cent., died. It is reported that there were no deaths amongst 2,029 animals inoculated for hæmorrhagic septicæmia. In Calcutta and its suburbs there were 28 outbreaks of rinderpest which were promptly attended to by the staff of the Bengal Veterinary College. Inoculation was performed in 3,181 cases, of which only 5 died. In spite of this satisfactory result prejudice against inoculation still exists among cultivators in some districts.

Dispensaries.

623. No new dispensary was opened during the year. The total number of patients treated at the existing 24 dispensaries shows a considerable increase, viz., 29,349 against 24,049 in 1914-15.

Breeding of Cattle.

624. There were altogether 83 stud bulls in the Province at the close of the year. Most of them are the property of Jails or of District Boards. Many applications received for bulls during the year from District Boards could not be complied with owing to want of suitable animals. This demand will in time be met by the Provincial Cattle Breeding Farm. Circle Inspectors are trying to impress upon the public the means of improving the breed of cattle and especially the necessity of proper care and feeding.

Staff.

625. With a view to assisting the Superintendent in touring and in the the inspection of the work of the subordinate staff of the Department, the appointment of a second grade Deputy Superintendent for the Civil Veterinary Department was sanctioned during the year. There were 6 Inspectors, 4 Staff Veterinary Assistants, 6 Reserve Assistants and 82 District Veterinary Assistants under the control of the Superintendent during the year. Seven Veterinary Assistants of the Province volunteered for service with Indian Silladar Cavalry Regiments and the Supply and Transport Corps, and they

are now serving under the military authorities in various stations in India. Mr. R. V. Pillai, a member of the Bengal Veterinary College, was also permitted during the year to volunteer for the duty of taking charge of horses which were being supplied for military purposes from Bombay. One Veterinary Assistant was deputed to Madras during the year to undergo a course of training in the treatment of elephants. After completing his course the Veterinary Assistant joined his appointment under the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division for treatment of Government elephants in the districts of Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling.

Zoological Garden, Calcutta.

[Annual report of the Honorary Committee for the year 1915-16.]

626. The financial condition of the garden was on the whole satisfactory, though the cost of food grains, etc., has risen while at the same time the income from the gate money has diminished owing to the war. The receipts of visitors amounted to Rs. 44,332-12, an increase of Rs. 2,063-11 over those of the previous year Including the Government contribution of Rs. 20,000 the total receipts amounted to Rs. 95,704-8-2 and the total expenditure to Rs. 65,786-7-5, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 29,792-12-9. During the year 5,98,024 persons visited the garden ; and the number exceeds the last year's figure by 38,265. Finance & Statistics.

The number of mammals, birds and reptiles in the garden at the close of the year was 351, 1,940 and 198, respectively, against 334, 1,893 and 246 of the previous year. The garden was, as usual, open free to the public one day in each month, and 60,546 persons availed themselves of the concession.

The War.

627. In June orders were issued confining the movements of hostile aliens in British India within narrow limits, and prohibiting particularly their visits to defended ports and cantonments. War.

War broke out with Bulgaria on the 15th October 1915. There were no Bulgarians in Bengal, but the notifications under the Foreigners Act (III of 1864), and Ordinance, restricting the movements of German and Austro-Hungarian subjects, as well as the orders regarding the registration and control of non-Asiatic foreigners in Bengal, were extended to Bulgarian subjects.

Fifty-five German and Austrian men, women and children in Bengal were repatriated on the 19th November 1915 ; while other hostile aliens who, on account of their age, infirmity and other reasons, were exempted from repatriation or internment at Ahmednagar continued to be interned at the local civil detention camps, or were allowed to live under supervision at their homes on parole.

In March 1916 the Government of India in the Army Department sanctioned the enlistment in the British army, for the duration of the war, of men of the domiciled Anglo-Indian community, on the same pay and with the same privileges as those enjoyed by British troops serving in India. A circular was accordingly issued to all heads of Departments and others in Bengal requesting them to explain to their employés that Government were anxious to encourage all Government servants belonging to the Anglo-Indian community to offer their services for military duty. The co-operation of the Corporation of Calcutta, the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the Calcutta Trades Association was also invited in the furtherance of the scheme.

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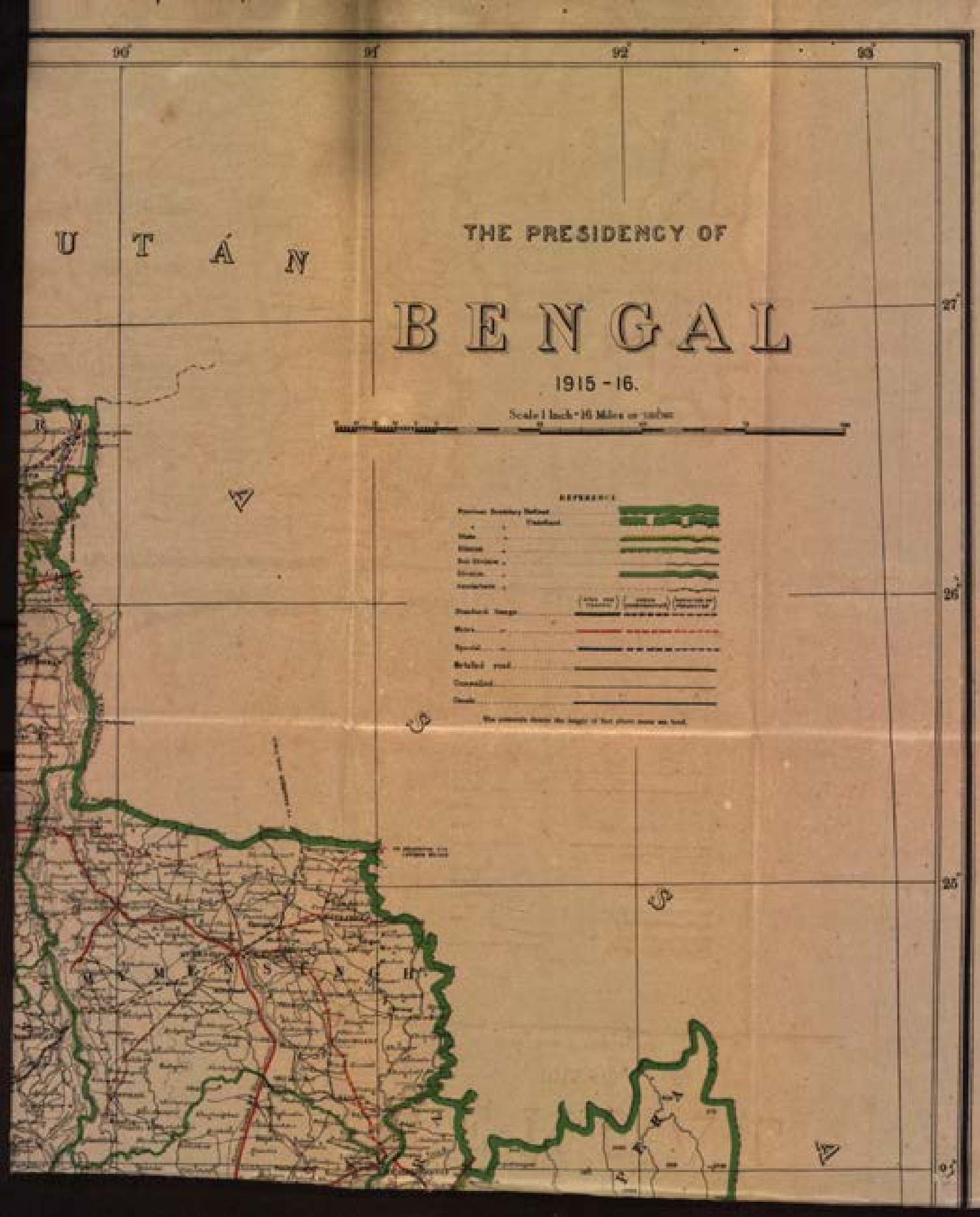
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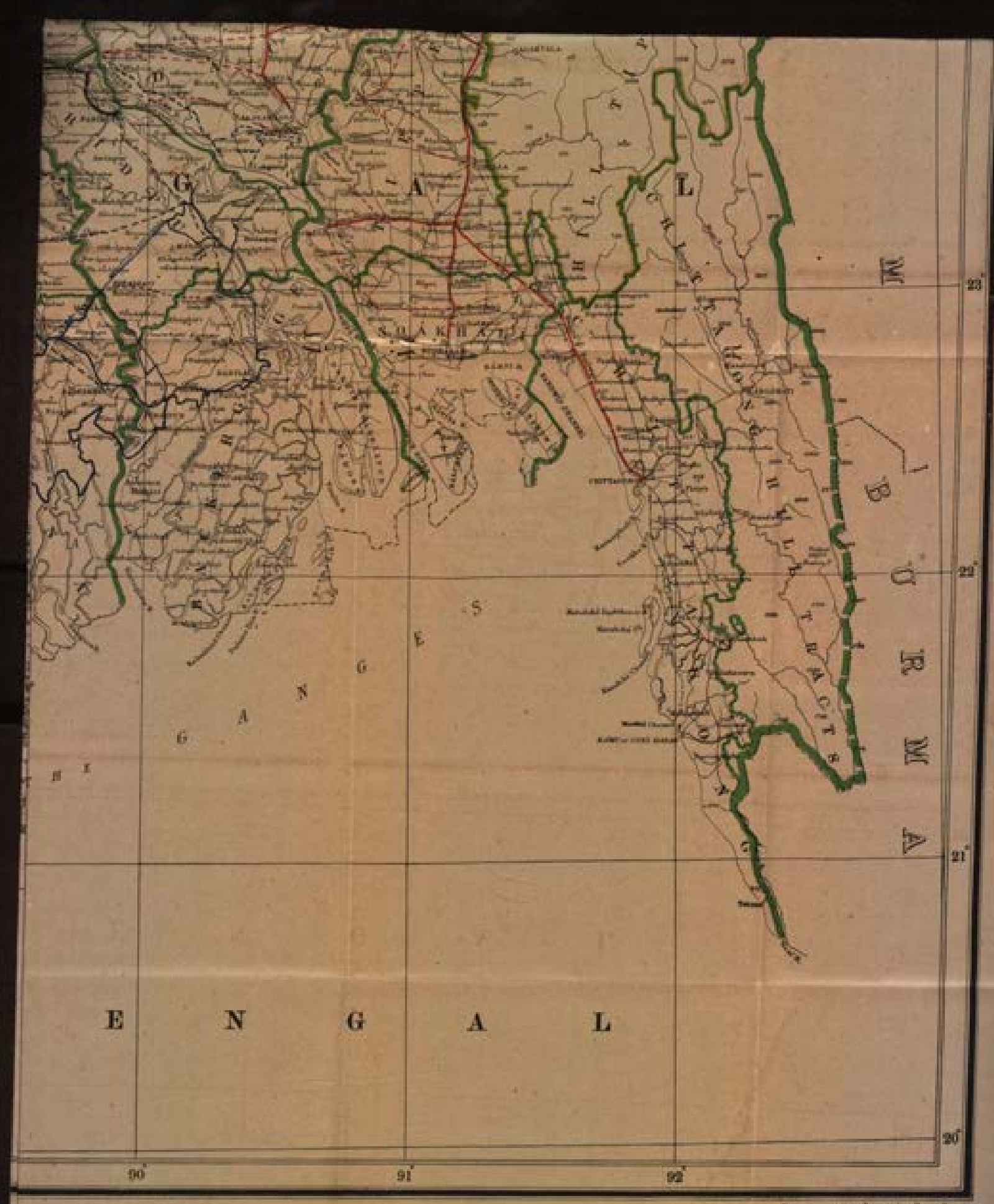
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